Medicaid benefits expected to continue in October 2019. PAGE 2
Iakopo inks contract with MVA. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Severe drought thru May

The National Weather Service in Guam is advising that the severe drought occurring in the Marianas is expected to last the entire month of May.

However, wind flow patterns are expected to slowly change, aiding in the spreading of rain over the region, according to a statement yesterday from the CNMI Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

The Commonwealth has seen very low rainfall so far in May, and showers have been spotty and brief.

Rainfall has been abnormally low over the CNMI since January and rainfall will continue to be below normal over the region through May, said HSEM based on a notice it got from NWS.

See SEVERE on Page 4

Japanese firm invests $500M in IPI

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Investment firm GCM Ltd. of Japan is reportedly set to infuse fresh capital to the projects spearheaded by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC on Saipan, according to a story on the gaming news website, iag.com.

That would make GCM Ltd. IPI's first foreign investor and could jumpstart Phase 1 of the casino-hotel operator's integrated resort project.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain confirmation and other comments from local IPI officials but they have yet to respond as of press time.

See JAPANESE on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- IPI seeks to draw brand-name hotels. PAGE 8

Neises-Mocanu makes it to '40 Under 40'

Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. was named yesterday as one of 40 honorees of the de Beaumont Foundation in its inaugural list of 40 Under 40 in Public Health.

Neises-Mocanu

Neises-Mocanu, a special assistant for policy, sustainability, and development for CHCC was the sole honoree from a U.S. territory; the rest are all health practitioners in the U.S. mainland.

According to a description of Neises-Mocanu's achievements on the de Beaumont Foundation's website, she makes improvements to discount programs for the

See UNDER 40 on Page 4

Rufina Tropicals and Bibang's Café in As Lito are now open for business across the airport field in As Lito. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

NMI's 1st agri-tourism, plant export biz opens

» Torres: Rufina Tropicals diversifies type of businesses in islands

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Rufina LLC owner Rowina O. Torres and her husband, Vincent DLG Torres, pose for a photo during the ribbon-cutting and blessing for their Rufina Tropicals and Bibang's Café in As Lito yesterday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A blessing and ribbon-cutting signaled the official opening of the first agri-tourism and ornamental plant export business in the CNMI.

Rufina Tropicals and Bibang's Café is located in a sprawling, two-hectare land across the airport field in As Lito.

"Today marks an idea that began many moons ago. Back then it seemed impossible. But when you are surrounded by so much inspiration and just living positive, everything is possible," said owner Rowina O. Torres, who thinks it's actually a relief to finally open the business.

"This is actually my playground," she added, smiling.

At Bibang's Café, tourists can come in and try what in-

See NMI'S on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

Alabama's governor signs the most stringent abortion legislation in the nation.

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ASIA

North Korea says it is suffering its worst drought in nearly four decades.

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OFFBEAT

A California cafe is offering the world's most expensive coffee—at $75 a cup.

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Local

Medicaid benefits expected to continue in October 2019

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Medicaid office has completely exhausted all its federal and local funding for fiscal year 2019, but expects it to continue at the start of fiscal year 2020 in October 2019.

Effective June 1, 2019, Medicaid beneficiaries can avail of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s clinics for outpatient care since it is the only agency designated as a medical provider for all children and adult outpatient care.

"Services provided by the Kagman Community Health Center, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Pacific Medical Center, and Saipan Health Center will not be reimbursed by the CNMI Medicaid Program for outpatient care," said a statement in the Saipan Medicaid website.

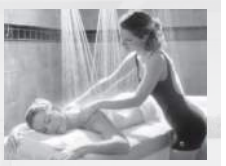
This means that these clinics will ask you for cash payment instead of billing Medicaid for services provided.

Exceptions are reserved for medically necessary outpatient services that are not immediately available at the Commonwealth Health Center. However, in order to be exempted, prior authorization must be obtained from CHCC.

"CHCC has committed to schedule appointments within three weeks of the request and to initiate treatment for urgent walk-in services within two

See MEDICAID on Page 4

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE



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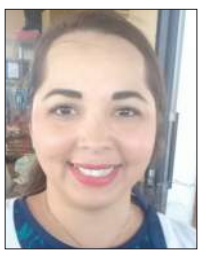
Iakopo inks contract with MVA


Iakopo

The new managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, Priscilla Maratita Iakopo, has been in office since Monday after signing a one-year contract with the islands' tourism body.

She said she has a lot of plans for MVA.

Iakopo said she was informed about the vacancy and that she went through the interview process, got a phone call, met with MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, discussed the position, and then signed a one-year contract.

"I asked them to give me the opportunity," she said.

As to some concerns that she has no tourism business background, Iakopo said her education and background speaks a lot for her.

Iakopo used to serve as interim chief financial officer at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. She last served as director of CHCC's procurement and supply division.

In a separate interview yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he is aware of the criticism that Iakopo is not experienced in the tourism industry. He pointed out, though, that he has previously appointed people who don't have expertise in specific fields.

In Iakopo's case, Torres said she has a master's degree and a college degree.

"That holds for something. She's born and raised here. For me that it also says something," he pointed out.

Torres said Iakopo went to school in the U.S. mainland and came back as her family is here.

"I believe that her heart is here. And tourism, it's everybody's business," the governor said.

He said it is about time that the CNMI start giving their own people the opportunity to gain experience.

"As a governor I have done that in the past. And that's me, giving opportunities for those who have not been given and for all whether they are young, new to the government or private sector," he said.

Torres said he is a strong believer that "if you give an individual the opportunity, it's up to them if they excel or not."

Torres said he wants to give as many and as much opportunities to those who have not been given.

He said that Iakopo's predecessor at the MVA helm, Christopher Concepcion, will be working with the Torres administration under planning and development.

He said Concepcion's experience and input will play a great role on the planning and development of the CNMI, whether it is tourism growth in Marpi, tourism growth in Garapan, or other tourist destinations.

Torres said Concepcion will start work in his new post in the first week of June.

He said they are still finalizing Concepcion's title, but that he will play great role in the governor's office.

Concepcion resigned as managing director last March 12. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DFEMS chief Norita given the pink slip

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Claudio K. Norita is expected to take on a new government role after he steps down as the first commissioner of the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services tomorrow. He served as DFEMS head since being appointed by former governor Eloy S. Inos in 2015.

Norita was reappointed but Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had to withdraw the reappointment since the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations didn't have the time to conduct his nomination hearings.

"I already signed a letter to withdraw Clyde Norita. I will be withdrawing his nomination today (Thursday). I will have an [appointee on an] acting capacity starting [today]. And after that, I will be appointing somebody soon after," said Torres, who added that the new DFEMS chief could be known in the next few weeks.

"But I met with Mr. Norita and…I will have him work in a different capacity. There is not enough time for the Senate to act on it."

Torres said one of DFEMS personnel will serve in an acting capacity, but he did not name which of Norita's deputies.

"The actual nomination will be coming, in about a week or two. I have not talked to anyone regarding the position until I formally made the withdrawal of Mr. Norita's appointment. I asked him to help my administration one way or another," said Torres.

Torres also withdrew the reappointment of Department of Corrections commissioner Vincent Attao last month.

Norita is a former law enforcer who rose from the ranks to become a police major. He is also a former House member during the 14th CNMI Legislature, was appointed as Criminal Justice Planning Agency executive director, and DPS special assistant before being assigned to head the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

SEVERE

From Page 1

"The likelihood of the post-El Nino-like dry weather pattern in the Marianas is seen to continue through the month of May," HSEM said yesterday.

That means fire danger is extreme in the CNMI.

"Specifically for…Saipan, the drawdown of fresh water resources could be a problem in the next few weeks," the HSEM statement noted.

Health issues such as pink eye and gastrointestinal problems become more common and more serious when water is scarce. Dehydration is also a major problem during droughts.

To prevent fire, HSEM is urging the community to refrain from discarding lit cigarette butts out of car windows and to delay burning green waste or trash outdoors as the spread of wildfire is likely to occur.

HSEM reminds the community that permits are required from the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services to burn outdoors and that littering may be punishable by a fine of $25 to $5,000 per offense.

Because of the dry weather conditions notice received from NWS, HSEM is urging the public to conserve water by following these simple steps below for water conservation and safe catchment guidelines:

1. Avoid flushing toilets unnecessarily
2. Avoid letting water run while brushing teeth, shaving, washing your face or when taking showers
3. Avoid pouring water down the drain if it can be used for another purpose, ie.: watering plants
4. Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods; defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting in microwaves
5. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers (one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year)
6. Those with water catchment systems, clean roofs, gutters and catchments, but do not waste catchment water
7. Catchment water should be for drinking only; however, always boil water FIRST before consumption
8. Well water will likely become brackish and should only be used for cooking and washing
9. Again, if you choose to drink catchment and/or well water, always ensure water is boiled FIRST before consumption

During dry weather, also keep in mind your pets and where they are situated. Refrain from tying or restraining dogs or any other personal pets in outdoor areas that do not have shade, to prevent heat exhaustion or suffocation of animals. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

JAPANESE

From Page 1

The website quotes IPI as saying in its filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that GCM would be its newest investor. The announcement came just one day after the CNMI Lottery Commission approved to again amend portions of the casino license agreement.

IPI had asked the Lottery Commission to amend the shareholder controlling interest—a move that could bring in new monies and diversify the company's portfolio. The CLA states that IPI's controlling interest must not go below 51 percent.

GCM is reportedly investing $500 million in the first phase of the planned integrated resort, to be built at the northern part of Saipan. The financial advice and investment information firm had already deposited $100 million with the company last Wednesday.

IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown said they have invited hundreds of investors—individuals, corporations or their representatives—to look into their multimillion-dollar projects in the CNMI. They hosted 200 investors a few weeks ago while another 100 are set to arrive soon.

In an earlier interview, Brown said the interest among investors is there, with many of them being captured by the islands' idyllic charm. "They are looking at our company and what our plans here."

He said that they have explained IPI's plans and other projects in the CNMI, hence their request to allow them to offer more shares. "To have more investors and basically to have more partners coming in to Saipan so our company grows and the CNMI grows with it."

IPI is reportedly going to partially open the 15 villas of Imperial Palace Saipan, its initial gaming facility in Garapan, later this year. The villa portion is located near the beach side of the construction project.

Imperial Palace Saipan, once completed, will have over 300 luxury rooms, 14,140 square meters of gaming area, and other amenities offered by a five-star casino-hotel resort.

NMI'S

From Page 1

digenous food is all about, featuring many authentic Chamorro dishes, Torres said.

Bibang's Café, which Torres named after her mother-in-law, Mama Bibang, is open Monday to Wednesday, from 7am to 2:30pm. It's open from 7am to 9pm from Thursday to Sunday.

"They can come over for dinner. Then we [also] have [a] happy hour area here," she said.

Torres said they also have 11 sections for outside dining.

"If you want to dine outside, you want to do your homework outside, you have to let us know in advance and we will set it up for you," she said, adding that they also offer internet access.

"If you want coffee there, we will bring it to you," she said.

Torres said the main business of their company, Rufina LLC, is actually the sale of ornamental plants and flowers. She has been exporting plants since 2015.

This year, she said, she wants tourists and residents alike to take part in a tour of a tropical jungle, which will showcase the islands' plants, trees, flowerings, edible fruits, fancy chickens, birds, and others.

"You can see the plantation. I have 19 species [of sansevieria) so you get to see what I export," Torres said.

Sansevieria is also known as snake plants or mother-in-law's tongue.

Torres first opened Rufina LLC, which does business as Rufina Tropicals, in 2014, because she wanted to do an online business—a vision to plant flowers and export them. She started testing the plant export process in 2015 and found sansevieria to be a best-seller. Now she has 19 species of such a plant that she exports.

Torres said that customers can see her and her staff do the shipping, packing, and cleaning of the plants.

"You can take photos of whatever we're doing. I don't restrict that. So, it is to share," she said.

At present, Rufina Tropicals delivers plants in 50 states and that their plants get there within three to five days.

When she started experimenting with the online business, she started with sales at just $100. That later grew to $500, then $1,000. In just two weeks, her sales went up to $4,000.

"And that's when I hit…the jackpot and I knew I will make it from there on," she said.

Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation last Oct. 24 and 25, however, took 90 percent of what she and her team had built.

She said the budget for the project was $500,000, but, due to Yutu's devastation, it went a little bit over that.

A longer version of this story is available on **www.saipantribune.com**

MPLT sets 20-day deadline for LOC deal

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust has placed he CNMI government's request for a line of credit under an investment review process.

The five-member fund manager board has set a 20-day deadline for the review process and would decide whether to grant or deny the government's LOC request after the review.

The trustees met with House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), acting Finance secretary Connie Agulto, and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), and House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Antonio SN Borja (R-Tinian) Wednesday night at the MPLT office on Capital Hill.

The trustees already met with their financial consultant Bruce McMillan to get all necessary documents from the Finance Department, do a cost analysis of the LOC, and the payment analyses.

The MPLT has also decided to only give a $7.5 million LOC to the government, half of the $15 million amount requested by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, at an interest rate of 7.5 percent.

The LOC is considered a local investment.

The trustees decided that they would only grant the LOC based on the amount that was remitted to them by the Department of Public Lands from public land leases. MPLT administrator Bobbie Reyes said they have $7.5 million on hand after DPL remitted another $2.4 million last Wednesday, together with the funds transmitted in fiscal year 2017.

The LOC is intended to address the government's bond obligations and fund its payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

40 UNDER

From Page 1

uninsured, drafts policy briefings on Medicaid and health care financing in the CNMI for policymakers, and advocates for tax increases on harmful products such as betel nut and sugary drinks at the CNMI Legislature. Currently, Neises-Mocanu is working on a listing of non-communicable disease policy recommendations to include in the CNMI State Strategic Plam.

She is working on her master's degree in Public Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

The 24 women and 16 men from 23 states and one U.S. commonwealth were selected for their new ideas, creative approaches and innovative solutions to improve community health.

"We launched 40 Under 40 to personalize the public health field and showcase the creativity and commitment of the individuals who are strengthening the health of our nation's communities," said Brian C. Castrucci, president and CEO of the de Beaumont Foundation. "By elevating the work and voices of these leaders, we hope to attract and inspire other professionals to bring creativity and innovation to the future of public health."

The honorees' job titles range from health commissioner and director of health equity to doula and epidemiologist. Each individual has helped to strengthen their community and has made significant contributions to the field of public health.

A longer version of this story is available on **www.saipantribune.com**

MEDICAID

From Page 1

hours," the office noted.

The authorization is through a certificate signed by CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña or any of the CHCC clinic directors at the time you are seeking the service. The certificate would then be presented to the medical provider in exchange for the services.

"…We are in process of reviewing all services funded by the CNMI Medicaid program to assess whether they can be reduced or eliminated to reduce expenses," CNMI Medicaid director Helen C. Sablan told service providers in a statement.

"While we hope that you might consider continuing to provide medical care for some of the Medicaid beneficiaries as charity care or through some arrangement directly with the patient, please be advised that any such agreement is between you as a provider and the patient—the CNMI Medicaid program will not reimburse you or the patient for any of these services," she continued.

These developments were also stated in a press conference last Wednesday.

For more information, visit the CNMI Medicaid program website at http://medicaid.cnmi.mp/ or call their office at 664-4880 or 664-4890.

Tinian mayor scores DPL process as not friendly to investors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan laments what he said is the slow process of the Department of Public Lands, which he described as "not being very investor friendly."

In a recent interview, Aldan said that during the confirmation hearing on Tinian for Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo as DPL secretary, he told her that they need to sit down and talk about the issue on DPL's slow process.

Aldan said he still supported Teregeyo's nomination confirmation, but told her that they need to return to the table and deal with this issue.

The mayor said no investor will go to Tinian and give DPL $60 million, but every time there is a project, that investor has to "beg DPL to pay for that project."

"That's wrong. Any investor cannot be put in that situation," he said.

Aldan said at present, the only large investors on Tinian are Bridge Investment Group and the Alter City Group.

He said the Macau City-based Alter City Group, which is supposed to build a five-star casino, is coming over to Tinian to sit down with them.

Aldan said they need to be upfront with Alter City Group.

"We don't want to…continue to dance to the same music. …We've got to change the music because we are not moving anyway," he said.

The mayor said Alter City Group should make their financial situation known. "We need to know, where are you at? Where we're going to? What do you need?" Aldan said.

Alter City Group and DPL signed a 152-hectare Tinian land lease agreement in September 2014 for a $300-million casino resort they expect to complete within 12 years.

In June 2016, it was reported that Alter City Group is aiming to open a college on Tinian aside from the $1.2-billion hotel and golf resort project.

In August 2018, it was reported that Alter City Group's application for a Regional Center Designation under the Immigrant Investor Program has been approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Such approval gives way for a business project to raise capital.

With respect to Bridge Investment Group, the company plans to build two hotels on Tinian. It is also working to revive the Saipan-Tinian ferry service.

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‘The money is there but nothing has progressed’

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero remains frustrated about the lack of improvements to the DPS evidence room since Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015.

He pointed out that the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor will be coming around on June for its routine inspection.

“It’s a thorn on my side. I’m going on my fourth year as DPS commissioner. This was the first problem I encountered when I first walked into this office and today, I’m still facing the same problem. …We haven’t moved even a nail so you can see my frustration.”

He said that disaster funds have been allocated for the reconstruction of the evidence room but nothing has been done.

“It’s disaster money that has been there and that’s what is irritating me. The money is there but nothing has progressed,” he said.

Yet he is the one who is criticized. He pointed out that the matter is out of his hands.

“It’s out of DPS’ hands. We’re not the ones contracting the contractor. We’re just the recipients. That’s what’s so frustrating. I’m not the one coordinating the construction of it yet I’m the one that’s being dinged for it because nothing is being done,” he said.

Currently, the DPS fitness room has been serving as the temporary DPS evidence room.

“We need that [evidence room]. Right now, the facility that’s being occupied as an evidence room [is] actually the physical fitness facility for our officers and their families,” he said. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Kilili’s requests honored in Interior appropriation

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan’s (Ind-MP) request for funding to help lower electricity costs in insular areas was answered yesterday, when appropriators included $12 million to fund energy action plans for the Marianas and other island jurisdictions in a spending bill for fiscal year 2020.

The House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies also increased the set-aside for insular area water systems from the 0.33 percent required by law and for sewers and water treatment from 0.25 percent.

The set-asides for water and sewer will both be 1.5 percent for fiscal year 2020. Total water and sewer funding went up 8 percent in the bill, further adding to the islands’ increase.

Sablan asked for $12 million to kick-start energy action plans for the insular areas in his appropriations requests earlier this year. The plans were mandated in 2014 by Public Law 113-235 as a way to bring down the cost of electricity. The plans are supposed to be approved by the Interior secretary with specific goals to reduce reliance on expensive foreign fuels and modernize energy infrastructure. And the secretary is required to report to Congress every year on whether the goals are being met. To date, that has not happened.

“Electricity costs have not changed—at least not in the Marianas,” Sablan told Interior Secretary David Bernhardt at a Natural Resources Committee hearing yesterday. He asked Bernhardt for an update on any progress on the energy plans since the two met earlier this month. But Bernhardt reported taking no action.

Interior Appropriations Subcommittee chair Betty McCollum specifically highlighted Sablan’s funding request during her opening remarks at yesterday’s markup. “The bill provides $12 million for Energizing Insular Communities to reduce the insular areas’ reliance and expenditures on imported fuels, develop domestic energy sources, and improve the performance of energy infrastructure,” McCollum said.

This will be the 11th year that Sablan has been able to increase the set-asides for island water and sewer infrastructure.

Beginning with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009 and in every annual appropriation for the Environmental Protection Agency since then, the set-asides have been increased from their statutory limits. For the Marianas that has meant over $60 million in additional funding and led to 24-hour water for Saipan households. ***(PR)***

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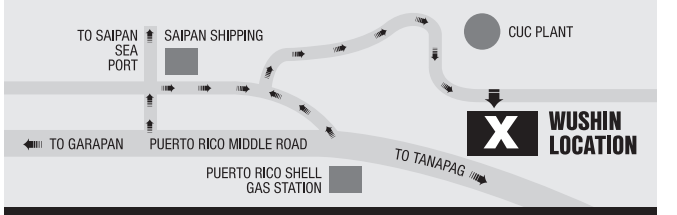

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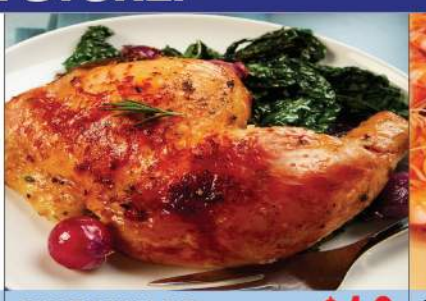

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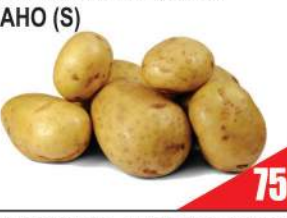

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IPI seeks to draw brand-name hotels

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC believes that bringing in brand-name hotels into its planned integrated resort would benefit the islands as it would attract high-end tourists and other travelers.

IPI chief executive officer Mark Brown said these brand-name hotels would form part of its planned resort in Marpi, on the site that was the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

This comes soon after the CNMI Lottery Commission, in a meeting last Tuesday, granted IPI's request to amend the casino license agreement and allow third-party investors and partners to provide high-end amenities at IPI's planned integrated resort.

Brown said their request is predicated on one thing only, and that is to sustain their investment in the CNMI, "obviously to grow our company. Because if our company grows, everyone else benefits in the CNMI. Our first request is growing the company by adding partners.

"We plan to have 2,000 rooms and we're looking to have different partners for this," he added. "We need other partners for this and we're looking for more."

He said this is how Singapore's Sentosa operates and other companies in the United States like the Caesars Palace that have other brand-name hotels and other establishments, similar to his experience in Macau when the Sands opened in 2004, and the Venetian Macau in 2007.

Brown said Four Seasons, St. Regis, The Conrad, The Holiday Inn, and Sheraton followed suit in Macau in the following years due to the trust the place has built in the tourism industry.

"Like the Sheraton and Four Seasons, that's what we want to also do here. All of these deals would be different. Our goal is to bring these partners with name brands that people outside of the CNMI know," said Brown.

Viola Alepuyo, IPI's Special Projects senior vice president, added that it would be their responsibility as the sole casino licensee on Saipan to comply with the 2,000-guest room requirement that is stated in the CLA.

Also included in the CLA are 17,000 square meters of gaming area, at least 23 food and beverage outlets, a 600-seat theater, and a wedding chapel.

"The integrated resort can be in one or more than one development site. What IPI wants to do is to build an integrated resort, much like the one in Singapore where they have the Sentosa that we could use a reference. They have actually a number of different hotels, managed by different companies," said Alepuyo.

"In addition, they have retail space…depending on which hotel you are staying. One of the attractions is a theme-park entertainment facility run by Universal Studios.

"What IPI is trying to do is bring in other partners that could build brand-new hotels, so that Hyatt is not only the brand-name hotel here."

IPI general counsel Philip Tydingco, Human Resources vice presidents Bertha Leon Guerrero and Magdalena Attao, vice president for Construction Eric Poon, IPI consultant Alfred Yu, and IPI Holdings Ltd.—IPI's parent company—senior general counsel Allan Chan joined Brown and Alepuyo at the meeting.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The U.S. Air Force invites you to review the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and attend the Public Hearing for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements.

TINIAN DIVERT BACKGROUND. In September 2016, the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises (2016 Divert EIS). The 2016 Divert EIS evaluated the proposal to construct facilities and infrastructure at the Saipan and/or Tinian airports to support cargo, tanker, and similar aircraft and associated support personnel for divert operations, periodic exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on December 7, 2016 and announced the Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative (Final EIS, Section 2.7) North Option (Final EIS, Section 2.5.2), as a future Divert location. After the ROD was signed, the Air Force conducted further evaluation of fuel transfer methods and associated infrastructure on Tinian, including the feasibility of different alternatives that were not considered in the 2016 Divert EIS.

PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for public review that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to construct a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include associated infrastructure at the Tinian seaport. The proposed pipeline would eliminate the need for bulk fuel storage tanks at the Tinian seaport and the need for fuel tanker trucks to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, both analyzed in the 2016 Divert EIS. The Air Force is considering two alternatives for the pipeline route, a West route and an East route. The Air Force has identified the East route as the Preferred Alternative for the pipeline. The Draft SEIS also analyzes the Air Force proposal to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert activities.

OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE DRAFT SEIS. The Draft SEIS is available for download at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com and may also be viewed at the following document repositories:

Saipan: Saipan Mayor's Office, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Tinian: Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Public Library

PUBLIC HEARING – ALL ARE WELCOME. The Air Force requests comments from local and federal agencies, political stakeholders, and interested members of the public. The Air Force is holding a public hearing to provide the public with the opportunity to learn more about the proposal and provide input. The public hearing venue will open at 5 p.m. and begin with an "open house" style format and poster stations. At approximately 5:30 p.m., the Air Force will give a brief presentation about the proposal. Formal public testimony will begin at approximately 6 p.m. The hearing venue will close at 8 p.m. All members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. Written and verbal comments will be accepted at the hearing; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making more informed decisions. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter will be available at the hearing to assist with translation of meeting materials and written comments. Hearing information is provided below:

Date	Time	Location
June 6, 2019	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Tinian Elementary Cafeteria

PUBLIC COMMENT. Comments on the Draft SEIS can be submitted in English electronically at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com; verbally or in writing at the public hearing; or via postal mail at the address below. For further information, please contact:

Ms. Julianne Turko, AFCEC/CZN
Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

The Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties. If you have comments or would like to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process, please visit the project website or contact Ms. Julianne Turko, AFCEC/CZN at the address above.

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft SEIS and the Section 106 process, please submit comments by July 1, 2019.

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

GCA students excel in different academic competitions

Five Grace Christian Academy students from 4th to 6th grades showed excellent performance at the 2019 Academic Bee Challenge for elementary students last Saturday, May 11 at the Marianas High School gym.

The competition brought together 65 contenders from 13 public and private schools in the CNMI.

With only two mistakes in the third round, GCA was the competition's third best team.

The five-member GCA team was composed of fifth graders Earl Jean Pantaleon, Aasish Dangol, and Rafael Busby; and fourth-graders Maria Sofia Gomez and Justin Ma.

Almost all of them are first timers in Academic Bee Challenge except for Pantaleon who joined the Academic Bee competition last year. "It was kind of scary, fun, and challenging. It really tests what you knew or what you studied," Pantaleon said.

The team members, along with their coach, were awarded individual medals, gift certificates, and certificates of recognition.

GCA coach Susan Pajarillaga said the GCA team began preparing for the competition covering various subject areas like Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies since March.

Organized by Marianas High School's National Honor Society, the Academic Bee Challenge marked the 24th year the Academic Bee Challenge was held in the CNMI.

GCA students also shone in Math Court last Saturday, May 11, at Mount Carmel School, with the CNMI-wide competition concluding the elementary division.

Second grade student Hans Ordas won first place in the Grade 2 level. He has been a consistent first place winner since Kindergarten 5 in the CNMI-wide Math Court competitions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Grace Christian Academy Academic Bee Challenge team has their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond Kinsella Library.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Grace Christian Academy K-3 Math Court winners have their picture taken at the Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.

Ordas, who started as a Kindergarten 4 student at GCA, said that Math is his favorite subject. "I told my parents that I want to become a scientist or mathematician someday," he said.

Seorae Lee, who is a new first grade student at GCA, won third place in the Grade 1 level. It was also Lee's first time to join the Math Court competition.

The Team GCA of Ordas, Grade 2, and Llyana Jaira Manalang, Grade 3, won fourth place in the team division for grades 2-3.

It was the first time for the CNMI Math Court to have this team competition for grades 2-3. Ordas said, "The 3rd grade questions are hard because I am just 2nd grade, but I did my best and let God do the rest."

CNMI Math Court began in 2005 in order to promote mathematics in CNMI. The elementary school competitions centered on the CNMI PSS Mathematics benchmarks.

Pajarillaga said, "I am so proud of our elementary students [who] did amazingly well during the competitions. I also want to thank the parents for their support." ***(PR)***

Manansala graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jeremie B. Manansala just graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Manansala is the son of Ruben B. Manansala and Emeluida B. Baluyut of Northern Mariana Islands.

He is a 2018 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. ***(PR)***

Trump to meet with Palau, FSM, RMI presidents in DC

President Donald J. Trump will welcome three presidents from the Freely Associated States in the Pacific to the White House on May 21, 2019.

The three are Republic of Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., Republic of the Marshall Islands President Hilda C. Heine, and Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo.

This will be the first time all three FAS leaders are hosted together at the White House by a U.S. president.

A U.S. Department of the Interior statement and a statement from the office of press secretary Sarah Sanders describe the event as a demonstration of the special partnership between the United States and the FAS.

"The leaders plan to discuss the close security ties between the United States and the FAS, their shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and their mutual interest in maintaining a free and open Pacific," a DOI statement said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Kilili's bill wants four insular areas to be included in annual census

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced yesterday a bill that requires a census every five years in the U.S. insular areas.

Currently, the American Community Survey collects data on population, income, and other information important for policy making in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico every year.

The Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands must wait for the national census every 10 years for that data. Sablan's bill would help close the gap.

"Without accurate and timely information on changes in the economy, employment, income levels, and other key indicators, insular governments are hindered in the establishment of appropriate policy," Sablan said in his introductory statement on his bill.

"And without these data, governments and the public are less able to assess the effectiveness of policies that have been established."

Rep. Michael San Nicolas (D-Guam) and Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa) co-sponsored Sablan's bill.

Insular area members have worked for years to get the American Community Survey extended to the islands. But in both Republican and Democratic administrations the Census Bureau has claimed that it would be too expensive and that the small sample sizes would make the data collected unreliable.

Sablan's bill takes a new approach to the problem of now to keep information about the islands and their hundreds of thousands of residents more current.

"Right now, we are operating on information collected 10 years ago to make policy and funding decisions about the insular areas," Sablan said. "That is like driving your car with a gas gauge that says how full your tank was last week. I think we can do better." ***(PR)***

Mother's Day Brunch
母亲节自助午餐
* Date: May 12, 2019
* Time: 10:30am-2:00pm
(Last Order: 1:30pm)
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*Date: Every Wed. & Sat. Night (每周一,三/六)
* Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm (Last Order: 8:00pm)
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* Tiger shrimp, blue crab, abalone, short ribs, wine…
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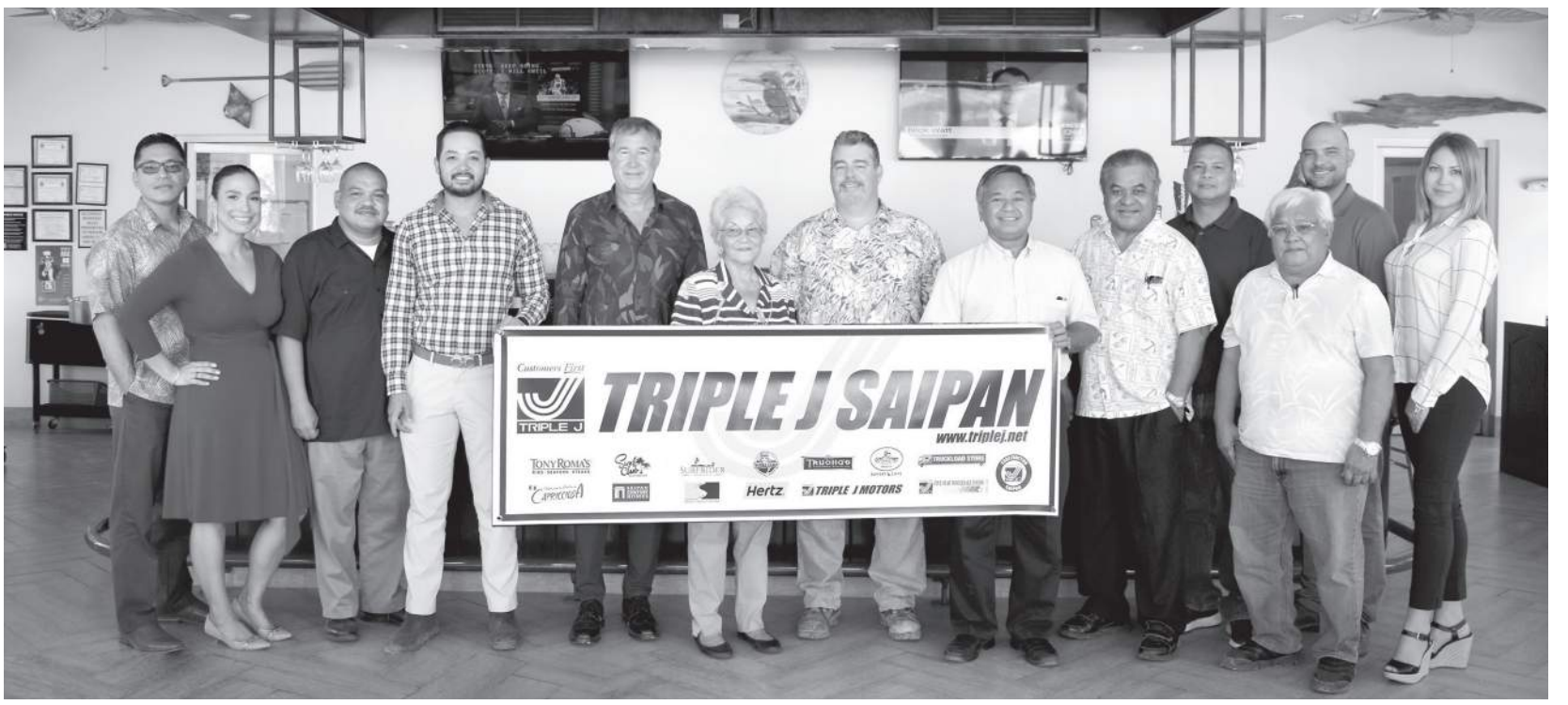
Tinian	Rota	Saipan
Saturday, May 18, 2019	Monday, May 20, 2019	Tuesday, May 21, 2019
1:00PM - 5:00PM	10:00AM - 3:00PM	10:00AM - 3:00PM
NMC Tinian Campus	Rota Resort	Kanoa Resort
Room D		Seaside Hall

To register (required), log on to crees.marianas.edu or contact Joaquin Deleon Guerrero or Polly Omechelang at 237-6840.

SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that functions through competitive grants conducted cooperatively by farmers, ranchers, researchers and ag professionals to advance farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities.



Triple J Saipan Inc. officials present a $5,000 donation to Northern Marianas Technical Institute officials led by Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief executive officer, for the 4th Annual NMTI Gala. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J contributes $5K to NMTI Gala

Triple J Saipan, Inc. has donated $5,000 to the 4th Annual Gala of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, making it NMTI's first official Diamond Sponsor.

This year's NMTI gala will be held on Friday, July 26, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"As a partner of NMTI, Triple J Saipan is committed to extending on-site training and placement of students within these programs," said Dan Murrell, senior vice president of Triple J Enterprises Inc. "When we take care of our community with shared commitment to training and educating, goals are met, and community relationships are forged."

He said this is the Jones family's, Triple J Saipan's, Inc. and its affiliate businesses' way of contributing to the CNMI's economy "one student at a time."

Ross Mangloña, director of NMTI's continuing education program, said the gala just keeps getting bigger and better. This year, it will be featuring some metal sculptures done by NMTI students under the guidance of NMTI instructor Christian Atalig, who boasts a strong background in the visual arts.

At the same time, the prizes are as good or better than the year, Mangloña added.

Agnes McPhetres, NMTI's chief executive officer, said that Triple J is "truly a community stakeholder. …They are truly a beacon of hope in our community. We're excited to have Triple J as a strong backer of trades education."

Funds generated at this year's NMTI Gala will be used to buy tools and equipment that will give students greater hands-on experience before moving on to their permanent careers.

Gala tickets are priced at $100 per person and can be bought by calling Manglona at (670) 322-6684 or emailing ross.nmticnmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Mommy and Me Fun Night on May 23

With May 2019 as annual Women's Health Month, the Office of Youth Affairs would be holding a Mommy and Me Fun Night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday, May 23, 2019, from 6pm to 9pm.

Mommy and Me Fun Night is free of charge and is geared toward mothers and their children.

The event, according to special assistant for the Youth Affairs Office Monique B. Sablan, seeks to instill fun in children and self-care among mothers.

"The event will focus on learning more about available resources in relation to health, wellness, and self-care from our partnering booths while enjoying the numerous fun activities, games, and entertainment," she said, adding that the event is open to all mothers, mother figures, and children of all ages.

There will be games, information booths, vendors, entertainment, and more—all for free.

The Youth Affairs Office coordinated with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Maternal and Child Health Bureau for the event.

For more information, email youthaffairs670@gmail.com or call (670) 235-1299. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Labor

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re General Order

Notice to Claimants and
Order to Appear

THE COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY has in its possession certain third party funds, which have remained unclaimed for more than one year. According to court records, the following people may be entitled to have funds returned to them

Name	Case Name	Case Number
1. Dong Suop Kim	CNMI v. Dong Suop Kim	TR-08-01425
2. Willie B Dogillo	CNMI v. Willie B. Dogillo	TR-00-06914
3. Petner Paul	CNMI v. Petner Paul	TR-02-06892
4. Alfonso Cambangay	CNMI v. Alfonso Cambangay	TR-02-06789
5. Andave C. Marchadasch	CNMI v. Andave C. Marchadasch	TR-04-02131
6. Cheng De li	CNMI v. Cheng De li	TR-04-04367
7. Alma C. Famat	CNMI v. Alma C. Famat	TR-02-05363
8. Jung Hwan Ku	CNMI v. Jung Hwan Ku	TR-04-06543
9. Nels Saimon	CNMI v. Nels Saimon	TR-04-00443
10. Pratheen Leklem	CNMI v. Pratheen Leklem	TR-05-02025
11. Gilbert S. Pinaula	CNMI v. Gilbert S. Pinaula	TR-05-02669
12. Xue Tian Gu	CNMI v. Xue Tian Gu	TR-08-00036

The aforementioned parties shall have until Wednesday, November 13, 2019 to make a claim with the Judiciary for the return of these funds. In order to make a claim, parties must complete a form, which is available at the Clerk of Court's window. Upon completion, parties shall submit the original and two photocopies of the form, together with two photocopies of a valid passport and/or government-issued photo identification, to the Clerk of Court located at Door Window 1 of the Guma Hustisia, Iimwaal Aweewe on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Claims must be submitted to the Clerk of Court and may be brought from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week. Any funds belonging to the parties named above that remain unclaimed after Wednesday; November 13, 2019 may be forfeited and turned over to the Commonwealth General Fund. On November 15, 2019 all parties named above shall appear before Associate Judge Joseph Camacho in Courtroom 212A at the Marianas Business Plaza at 10:00 a.m. and await the call of his or her claim by case number and captioned parties. Parties must bring a copy of their claim form with them when appearing for this court proceeding.

ENTERED May 17, 2019.

/s/_____
ROBERTO C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

Iakopo named executive director of the NMI Veterans Affairs Office

Stanley Tapuaialupe Iakopo has been appointed to serve as the executive director of the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor.

"Stanley's extensive military experience and passion for veterans make him an ideal fit for this position," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

"He will help implement a constructive and cooperative dialogue between our administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs about the unique needs of our veterans who deserve better from our federal partners out here in the Pacific," Torres added.

Iakopo has served in the U.S. Air Force for the last 18 years in several capacities.

He is a former executive director for the Civil Military Liaison Office and a former environmental health officer and procurement and supply director for the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Iakopo

"Governor Torres and Lt. Gov. [Arnold] Palacios have made veterans a top priority in terms of improving VA's capability in providing optimal services to our veterans. I am honored to have such a meritorious mission serving those who sacrificed for us," he said.

"One of my missions is to achieve interoperability between the federal and local VA. I look forward to working with the Veteran Affairs leadership on the federal side to ensure that we have joint commitment and that our plans are aligned in servicing our veterans and their families at the highest level possible," he added.

Iakopo was an air transportation manager in Guam from 2001 to 2008 and was an active duty Air Force reserve recruiter from 2008 to 2015, in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In addition to his new role, he is currently in the Air Force reserve for the U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific.

He also has experience in the CNMI Public School System as a speech and language pathologist from 2003 to 2004, a high school teacher in Kagman High School from 2004 to 2006, and a special education teacher from 2006 to 2008.

He has an associate degrees in nursing, physical therapy, and human resources, a bachelor's degree in speech and pathology and audiology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a master's degree in education from Framingham State University. He is also in a PhD program in education at Grand Canyon University. ***(PR)***

SAMSHA Family Fun-Fest tomorrow

The National Prevention Week that is hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will end with a "Family Fun-Fest" tomorrow, May 18, at the Capitol Hill baseball field, from 9am to 2pm.

The event, hosted by the Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit of the Community Guidance Center, will include prevention partner agencies conducting educational/physical activities for the families, food vendors, and a bounce house, to name a few.

National Prevention Week took place this week from May 12 to May 18. It is a one-week observance that is dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of, and action around, mental and/or substance use disorders. National Prevention Week included a variety of activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For information, contact Joseph Ada at (670) 323 6560/61. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

2019 Women's Health Month

Women's health month (WHM) serves as a reminder for women to make their health a priority and build positive health habits for life.

This May, take steps for your health.

Early detection is your best protection against cervical cancer. Getting your pap test done regularly can help find and treat irregularities/abnormal changes in your cervix before it becomes cervical cancer. The Breast & Cervical Screening Program under the Division of Public Health Services can help pay for your pap test. For more information about getting a pap test done, or for information on other women's services, please call 236-8731/27.

Join us at our events!

Healthy Cooking Demo free samples & giveaways!
May 8th at AFETNA SUPERMARKET IN SAN ANTONIO 5:00PM-6:30PM

Healthy Cooking Demo free samples & giveaways!
May 9th at TWINS MARKET IN DAN DAN 5:00PM-6:30PM

Systems of Care Family Expo
May 25th at CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE 10:00AM-2:00PM

5 for 5, 5K Walk, Run & Roll
JUNE 1ST AT GARAPAN FISHING BASE 5:00AM Registration

HAPPY Mother's day

For more information about WHM events please call 664-8701.

BEGINS WITH ME

Paid for by Grant # CHH8898B

Invest in yourself.
Invest in your health.
one healthy choice at a time.

PREVENTION STARTS HERE

150 MINUTES EVERY WEEK
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TSLF Donates $100K to Tinian

San Jose Tinian Parish Priest Fr. Rey Rosal, center front row, is joined by TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, second left, front row, Friends of San Jose Parish chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, fifth left front row, Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, and officials and executives of TanHoldings and the parish for a group photo after the donation turnover ceremony on Tinian early this month. The TSL Foundation donated $100,000 for the rebuilding of the parish's social hall, which was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu.

TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, right, gestures to Marianas Visitors Authority Tinian's staff while waiting for the start of the donation turnover ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

San Jose Tinian Parish Priest Fr. Rey Rosal, right, shakes the hand of TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan to thank him and the foundation for coming to Tinian's aid, while Friends of San Jose Parish vice chair Richard Lazaro looks on.

Friends of San Jose Parish chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds expresses her and the parish's appreciation to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the generous donation.

Friends of San Jose Parish chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, second left, and other officials of the group acknowledge the guests and visitors of the parish.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, left, and Senate President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) watch the video clips of the devastation that Super Typhoon Yutu caused on Tinian.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Tinian leaders and residents, CNMI government officials, and guest listen to Kimberlyn King-Hinds deliver a brief message about the Friends of San Jose Parish's plan to rebuild the social hall.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, acknowledges TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, his family, and TSL Foundation for always stepping up for the CNMI.

SCHEDULED POWER INTERRUPTIONS

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019 – 6:30am to 7:30am
- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Upper Miha, Garapan
- Power service area(s) affected: Upper Miha Garapan
- Water service area(s) affected: As Falape
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: S-10
- Work to be performed: Maintenance

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019 – 8:30am to 1:30pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: ARFF
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace seven wooden poles with concrete ones

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 – 7:30am to 6:30pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: San Vicente
- Power service area(s) affected: Isa Drive (Airport Traffic Light intersection to Laulau Bay Drive)
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1, 2 and 3 distribution circuits
- Village location: Lower Base
- Power service area(s) affected: Puerto Rico and Garapan Fishing Base
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: Sadog Tasi Treatment, S-1 and S-3
- Work to be performed: Replace four wooden pole with concrete poles

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 – 8am to 2pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Upper Miha, Garapan
- Power service area(s) affected: Upper Miha Garapan
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Maintenance

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Straighten 13 leaning concrete poles

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Kagman
- Power service area(s) affected: Hafa Adai Avenue, Buenas Tatdas Street, Buenas Noches Street, Rascua Court, Pasehu Court, Magicienne Bay Avenue and Birada Street
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Sirena Avenue, Atdao Street, Ayuda Street, Tienda Avenue, Sailing Drive, Deskansa Street, Bonta Street and Mestisa Avenue
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Sirena Avenue, Atdao Street, Ayuda Street, Tienda Avenue, Sailing Drive, Deskansa Street, Bonta Street and Mestisa Avenue
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 – 8am to 4pm
- Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
- Village location: Dandan
- Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road Fishing Place, Adios Place, Walking Place, Kattan Hudda Drive, Hook Lane and Parasial Place
- Water service area(s) affected: None
- Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
- Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely conduct maintenance associated with the ongoing restoration effort.

CUC line crews will work to complete the CUC Federal Emergency Management Agency Water System Mitigation Project while line crews from PSE will continue hardening tasks along the power distribution system.

Water service may be interrupted during the scheduled outages.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor iys Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

RETURN FROM DEPLOYMENT GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Eleven more Guam Guard airmen from the Guam Air National Guard)'s 254th Security Forces Squadron returned home Tuesday evening, May 14, from a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. Here, the 11 airmen pose for a photo with Guam National Guard Leadership immediately after arriving on Guam.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday, Damon Gregory! We love you so much and hope you get everything you wish for and more. Love, Jadine, Lexi, and Mommy.

ON SAIPAN FOR PSS-BOE STRATEGIC TRAINING

CNMI Board of Education Chairwoman Janice Marie A. Tenorio, left, and Public School System Commissioner of Education Glenn Muña, center, engages with Dr. Allison Layland, the chief education strategist of the Academic Development Institute, one of the nation's top provider and developer of transformational services to organizations. Dr. Layland is conducting a three-day strategic performance management training for all of the school district's education leaders and policymakers and in partnership with the Pacific Regional Comprehensive Center. The training is also conducted in part through a grant made available by the U.S. Department of Education for technical assistance.

PSS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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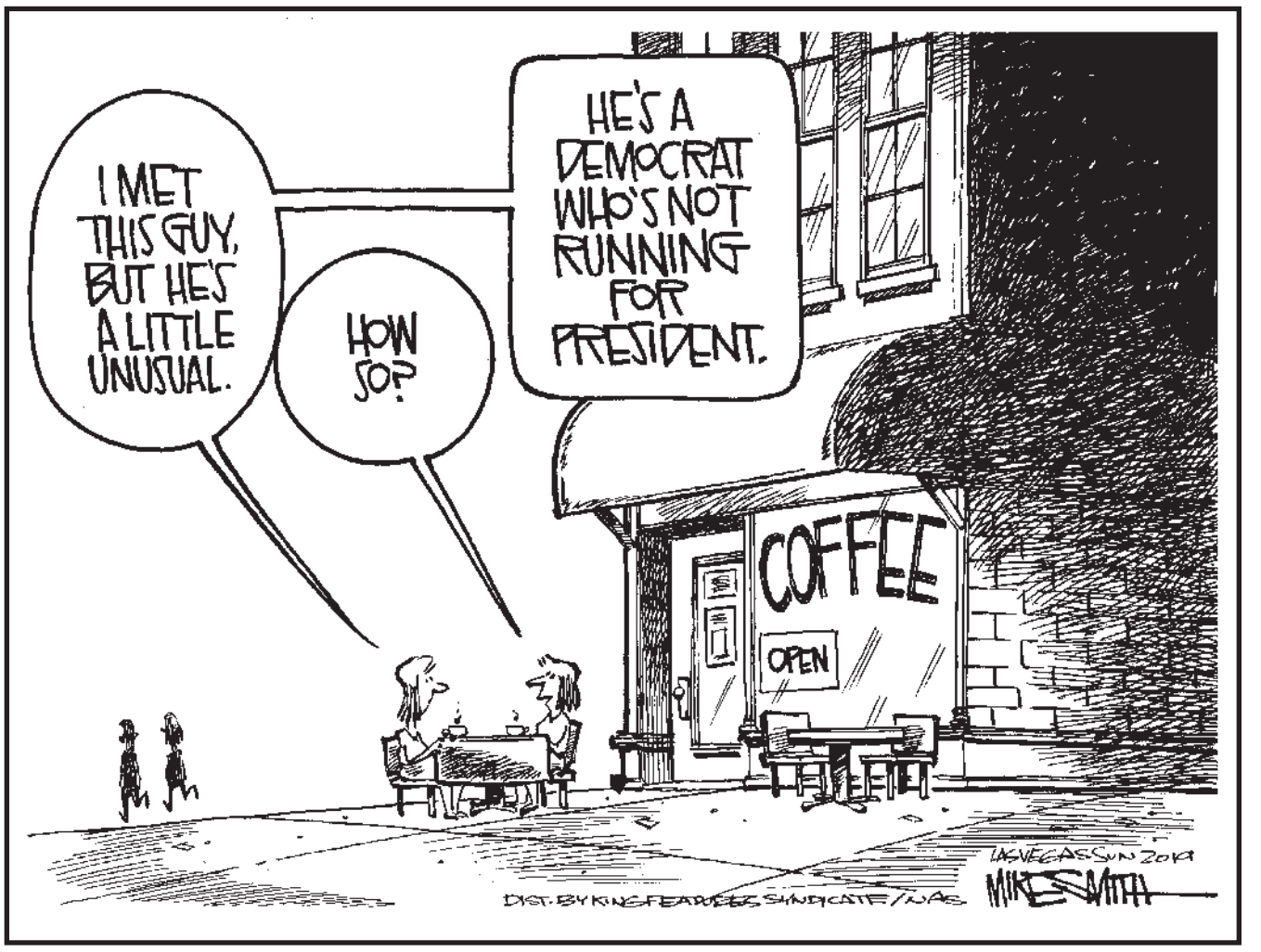

I MET THIS GUY, BUT HE'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL.
HOW SO?
HE'S A DEMOCRAT WHO'S NOT RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT.
COFFEE
OPEN
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/WAS
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
MIKE SMITH

It should be easier than this

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at the University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

There are many things in life, monumental and minuscule, silly and significant, which should be far easier than they are.

It should be easier than it is to remember names, learn other languages or get your luggage off the plane in less time than it took for you to fly to your destination.

Yet one thing I never imagined would prove difficult has recently become a source of consternation: It should be easier, I believe, to prove that I am not a robot.

Earlier this week, I placed my thoroughly corporeal, mortal and fleshy self firmly in front of my home computer because I wanted to buy a handbag from a consignment website. Nothing could offer better evidence of plain old human frailty than the very act itself. But before I could make the purchase, I had to prove my personhood to the website.

Evidence of humanity now depends, apparently, on an ability to click on all the squares containing crosswalks, then on all the squares containing buses, and then, as if just for laughs, all the squares containing fire hydrants.

It was the fire hydrants that got me swearing in a decidedly non-algorithmic manner. That's when I also decided that when I did need another handbag, I would go to a retail establishment where the ability to recognize the image patterns that form dollar bills was all the proof of anything I would need to provide.

In addition to proving we're not robots, the following things should also be easier:

_ Cleaning the litter box while not spilling your wine (thanks DC Stanfa).

_ Mastering the so-called "universal remote" (a device that sounds as vague and impractical as it is). Half the people I know wish they could return to on-off switches. Many would, if necessary, prefer to get up off the couch to change channels and control the volume. My spouse and I once watched 40 minutes of "Too Cute" because we couldn't figure out how to get to "360 with Anderson Cooper."

■ Understanding that loneliness, like hunger or exhaustion, reveals a deep need that must be addressed.

■ Knowing what the actual final cost of the hotel room will be after they add the resort fee, the local taxes, the federal taxes, the planetary taxes, the Wi-Fi charge, the climate-control taxes, the indoor-room tax, the hallway usage fee, the elevators fee and the please-don't-use-your-towels gratuity in order to save the earth gratuity (not included).

■ Using public transportation (thanks Kristina Dolce).

■ Dying when you choose to (thanks Leighann Lord).

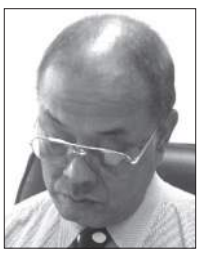
■ Knowing the precise moment when an avocado is ripe (thanks Jennifer Lynn).

■ Ending a relationship that makes you or someone else chronically unhappy, discouraged or obsessive.

See IT SHOULD on next page

Thematic words

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

With revenue generation heading south, the ring of two thematic words "short" and "cut" seem to have stormed up stunning discordant notes. Perhaps this may have been prompted by a drop of $30 million in revenue per the administration's recent budget submission to the Legislature.

Its echo portends serious fiscal crisis ahead. Or am I being overly alarmed at the implications of revenue shifting south? Reimbursement to private clinics would also be discontinued beginning June 1. Are there backup plans how to navigate serious revenue cuts?

Interesting the preliminary circling of the proverbial wagons dredging up pathetic excuses how to dispose cuts in resources while staring at huge obligations that continue to pile up. The lights are on, is anybody home?

But isn't the casino industry the savior of our financial inadequacies? Or is IPI also in trouble with its investment portfolio?

If revenue drop persists, it means reduction in public services or number of government employees or both. Hope we don't have to resort to the second option. It's hard for adversely hit families now struggling to make ends meet sharing whatever is available with extended family.

Behind the revenue shortfall are debts owed CUC, e.g. PSS, $6,133,067, CHC, $27,412,615 and CPA, $17,662,237 for a total of $33,545,652. It has forced agency-wide cuts, keeping fingers crossed that revenue takes steady stream or resurges. How do we navigate our single mini-tourism industry sliding south? The only reasonable alternative is in private industry expansion that is stagnant at this point. Bad tidings all around!

Shine: This is where we see the credentials of policymakers come into full view and how the elected elite uses its "depth of vision" to resolve fast receding revenue generation. The concept focuses on your ability to see, sense and dispose of obligations in forthright fashion.

It includes fulfilling your fiduciary duty on Da Hills of Saipan. Let's see economic plans to revive revenue generation or any plan for that matter.

As you may know, economic contraction is one of the devastating effects of major investments exiting the NMI preceded by devastation from superstorms.

Any realistic answer how to neutralize or recoup the loss in the billions of dollars? Did you say "not yet, already?"

Appalling how you've misperceived investment exit as business as usual. Is it when the loss is in the billions of dollars? How do you recoup more than $14 billion?

It's a real challenge when there's no other economic component that could cushion the mini-tourism industry sliding southward. Depth of vision or "not yet, already" boggles the mind whether this is your grand excuse polishing fiduciary failure!

Focus: It's hard cutting the budget for an already under-funded healthcare system. In fact, it probably is in the ICU of one too many cuts already! Nor is there room to sacrifice the education of over 10,000 students. How do you work up the gall to sacrifice one or the other?

It's obvious several agencies are already doing their mea culpa with fund shortage trying to figure out what is north. This brings forth the obvious: a lot of what's done in government requires a lot more focus than meets the eye.

An issue that I find troubling is the over emphasis on the ethnic term "indigenous". It is treated as if the indigenous people have long suffered years of neglect in their development. Special attention turns them into special citizens above all others. Nah! The rights of citizens are equally the same for one and all!

Music: I started humming a familiar sentimental childhood melody while pondering golden years alone in thought and prayers at dawn.

It included nursery rhyme songs we learned in grammar school. But one song stood out that mom used to sing daily. It's a beautiful melody from Tahiti called *Lovely Flowers*. I still hum it to this day!

I enjoy listening to local songs of yesteryears. Interesting the meaningful lyrics in each tune. It's riddled with simple life's lessons only found in old tunes.

Moreover, I enjoy standard songs for their melodies and lyrics. They are beautiful tunes some with difficult notes that make it a challenge playing on a guitar. It's tough second-guessing it unless you know your instrument.

My acoustic guitar sits next to my laptop I'd pull and toy with when a melody hits. Love jazz and swing, a few country, folk songs, old ballads or standard, and traditional local tunes. I was an active musician for about 25 years.

Thus music has been, still is and will forever be a part of my daily life I now use for pace shifting. It's a good option for breaking the daily routine.

Medicare helps seniors use opioids safely

By GREG DILL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Territories. You can get answers to your Medicare questions by visiting www.Medicare.gov or calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

If you get injured or have surgery, your doctor may prescribe opioids, a class of drugs used to treat pain.

Although opioids can be an important part of treatment, they carry serious risks of addiction, abuse, and overdose, especially if used continuously. This is true even for seniors and other people with Medicare coverage.

While illicit use is part of the opioid epidemic, prescription opioids provided by physicians can also be a problem when not used carefully. Since Medicare pays for a significant amount of prescription opioids, we strive to ensure appropriate stewardship of these medications that can provide a medical benefit but also pose risks.

That's why Medicare has developed new policies for Medicare prescription drug (Part D) plans, doctors, and pharmacists to help you use opioids safely. Medicare is also using new drug-management programs to look for potentially high-risk opioid use.

The new policies aren't "one size fits all." Instead, they're tailored for different types of Medicare prescription opioid users. These policies don't apply to people living in hospices or long-term care facilities, receiving palliative or end-of-life care, or being treated for active cancer-related pain.

When a prescription is filled, Medicare drug plans perform additional safety checks and may send pharmacies an alert to monitor the safe use of opioids and certain other medications.

Safety checks may cover situations like:

■ Possible unsafe amounts of opioids. The pharmacist or Medicare drug plan may need to more closely review a prescription with the prescribing doctor if a patient has one or more opioid prescriptions that total more than a certain amount.

■ First prescription fills for opioids. These may be limited to a 7-day supply or less for acute pain if a patient hasn't recently taken opioids (like within the past 60 days). This safety check applies only to new users of prescription opioids.

■ Use of opioids with benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepines are a class of drugs commonly used for anxiety and sleeplessness, which can be dangerous when taken in combination. If a prescription can't be filled as written, the pharmacist will provide a notice explaining how the patient or doctor can contact the Medicare drug plan to ask for a coverage determination (the first coverage decision made by the Medicare drug plan). The patient or doctor also can ask the plan for an exception to its rules before the patient goes to the pharmacy, so they know whether or not the prescription will be covered.

If a beneficiary gets opioids from multiple doctors or pharmacies, the beneficiary may need to receive their medications from specific doctors or pharmacies to ensure appropriate care coordination. The plan will send the beneficiary a letter if it will limit their access to these medications under its drug management program. If so, the beneficiary and his or her doctor have the right to appeal.

Medicare's new opioid policies encourage collaboration and care coordination among Medicare Part D drug plans, pharmacies, prescribers, and patients in order to improve opioid management, prevent misuse, and promote safer prescribing practices.

Medicare is committed to addressing the opioid crisis and helping our beneficiaries use prescription opioid pain medications safely. More information about safety checks and drug management programs is available on Medicare.gov at Medicare drug plan coverage rules.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Out of Schoolers and Summer Coolers

some are in and some are out of schoolers
at the beach or with some backyard foolers
summer coolers alcohol free and some not
beer bar stoolers sit and drink, sip, and chat
fresh lemon tea on ice when it is so hot
ice cream root beer floaters all getting fat
relaxing, texting, OMG even reading books!
says the rhyme, 'no more teacher's dirty looks'
many Miley Cyrus or Justin Beiber wannabe
uses the line, "don't fan atan baba me"*
multi flavored sherbert ice cream coolers
melt down quick from waffle and sugar cones
lick it up fast there's no time for droolers
no little ice cream drops on new cell phones

**Chamorro for "please don't look bad at me."*

Always Give All Your Heart

Always give your whole heart, for love
is worth what you've been thinking of.
In love's garden of heavenly delights
sample the varietals of the Finger Lakes.
With all your strength drive in the trellis stakes
to help grow the fruit for years of days and nights.
In love's torrid and tangled vineyard taste,
when harvest comes and frost is on the vine,
the grape. Enjoy its flesh, its juice, its shape.
In vino veritas. Taste again. Drink deep the wine.
As you pluck love's fruit in the chill of autumn
Love with all your heart from top to bottom.
He that wrote this knows full well what he lost.
It was well worth it, regardless the cost.

My hometown of Elmira, New York, was known in song as 'The Gateway to the Finger Lakes." I spent my high school summers (1963-1967) gallivanting around the glens, vineyards, shale beaches, and cool waters of three of the larger Finger Lakes in upstate New York.

Along the side of those three lakes—Cayuga, Seneca, and Keuka—were small dairy farms and vineyards. Today there are many more vineyards. We would swim in the round rock potholes of the small glens and jump from cliffs down into the potholes. Many an early romance developed along those lakes.

This is a response I wrote to W. B. Yeats' poem *Never Give All the Heart*. Yeats' ending couplet in that poem is: "He that made this knows all the cost/For he gave all his heart and lost." I took a positive slant, "He that wrote this knows full well what he lost/ It was well worth it, regardless the cost."

It's Not Against the Law???

"It's not against the law," he crowed
"So I've got every right!"
The stalking and intrusion
almost pushed his prey to fight.

"It's not against the law," said he
to justify his deed.
"It's how I make a living, and
well, I've got mouths to feed."

"It's not against the law"
was the sole reason that he gave.
But laws are made by men,
the same who shackle and enslave.

It's not against the law. Agreed.
Of that there's no denial.
But rights and words of law my friend
are not what's now on trial.

Without a moral compass
to divine your right from wrong.
The death of common decency
won't be too far along.
It's not against the law I rail
but lack of soul within.
For how long can we wait on men
'til empathy sets in?

There's a video on YouTube of photographers who were stalking Ben Affleck as the actor was taking his children (ages 2 and 6) for a day out. Ben confronts one of the paparazzi and asks him to back off to allow him to enjoy his family day. I felt it was a sad commentary on society that the rationale the photographer felt most justified in giving to the actor—that he felt excused his behavior—was "Hey, it's not against the law."

Wow! If I'd been there, I would have asked the photographer: Yes, but what about the effect your behavior has on others? Can you empathize with how your behavior makes them feel? What of the cumulative effect actions like yours will have on the community and its quality of life if everyone dispenses with common decency in favor of simply what's legally permissible? Is this how *you* would wish to be treated?

Furthermore, are you compromising your own ethics just for a paycheck? Is this the only way you can make a living—by preying upon and stalking others? What of the negative points on the universal karmic ledger you are racking up with your actions? You may not believe in karmic justice, but many traditions and belief systems will tell you "what goes around comes around."

There's so much more to assessing whether a person is justified in his/her behavior than merely whether the laws are on that person's side. These are the same laws written and enforced historically (here in the U.S.) by men who killed indigenous populations, owned slaves, subjugated women, imprisoned others who didn't look like them, and terrorized anyone of "alternative" orientation.

By WALT GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt Goodridge is a Saipan resident and author of over two dozen books, including In Search of a Better Belief System and Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *www.liferhymes.com.*

You can't hide behind mere "legality" in deciding whether something should be acceptable to you or the society. Hopefully, people will realize that laws are not the arbiters of personal ethics and (in many cases) not even reflective of societal morality. Laws are written by people with their own flaws, biases, prejudices and all sorts of "isms" that affect their viewpoints. You have the ability and authority—and perhaps the moral obligation—to come to a conclusion about what is "right" or "wrong" for you and the society despite what "the law" says about it. The willingness and courage to do just that is precisely how society evolves.

IT SHOULD

From Page 10

■ Turning down an invitation to an event you absolutely don't want to attend when it is issued by a person who matters to you (thanks Amy Hartl Sherman).

■ Reaching a living, responsive, knowledgeable customer service representative on the phone before the point where you start shouting "AGENT! AGENT!" into the mouthpiece and hitting random buttons (I would like to thank the friends who put this at the top of their own should-be-easier lists, but I can't because there were approximately 4,972 of them).

■ Not getting shot when not in a war zone (thanks Timothy A. Livengood).

■ Paying off student loans and getting control over debt incurred while attending college (thanks to former student Tim Stobierski, who writes about ways to wrestle with this problem in his "Student Debt Warriors" blog).

■ Putting down the fork, the glass, the plate, the dish, the spoon and the cup because you've had enough.

■ Choosing the right light bulb. As Robin Hauser Franklin put it, "It used to be just about picking wattage. Now it's color and effect: white, sunlight, soft-white or Casper the friendly ghost. I've come to dread the responsibility of buying light bulbs."

Finally, two things in life that should be easier are starting something and then finishing it.

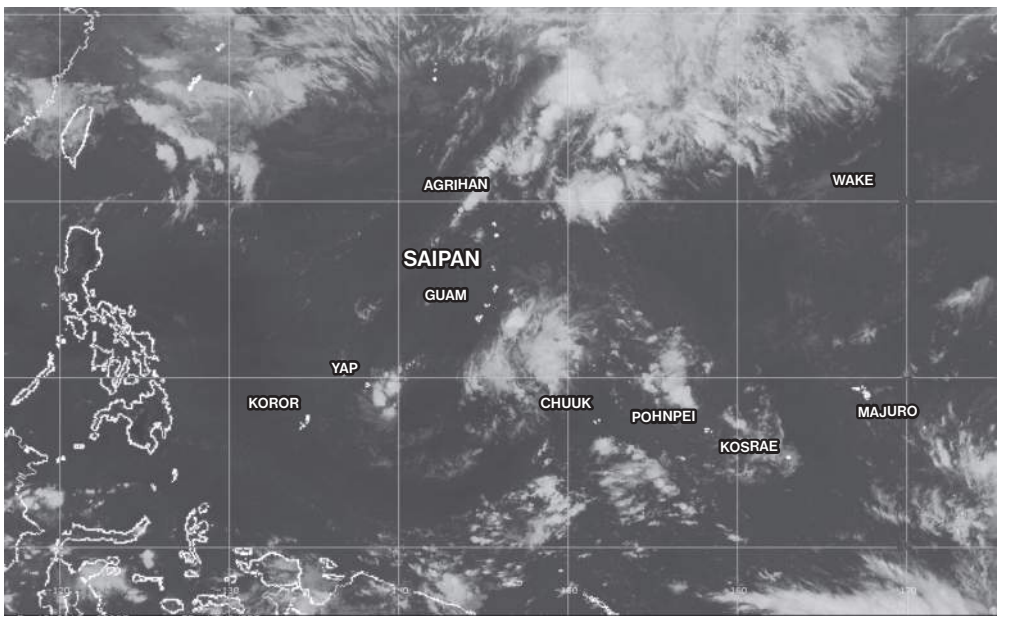
Sometimes, of course, it's not difficult at all.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers
88° 79°	88° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:01 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers are making their way across the Marianas waters this morning but long-range radar shows heavier showers and thunderstorms well southeast of Guam along the eastern periphery of a broad disturbance we`ve been watching the past several days. Late night surface analysis shows 2 weak circulations, one east of Yap near 9N141E, and the second just east of Guam near 13N146E. Showers and thunderstorms are mostly found east and southeast of this nearer circulation within the convergent southerly flow.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 55°
Beijing	Showers	75° / 52°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°
London	Showers	64° / 50°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 58°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 57°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
New York	Partly Cloudy	70° / 58°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Paris	Showers	68° / 50°
Busan	Cloudy	70° / 64°
Rome	Showers	64° / 55°
Salem	Sunny	89° / 65°
San Francisco	Rain	58° / 52°
Seoul	Cloudy	82° / 61°
Tokyo	Cloudy	72° / 63°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 65°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:07 AM	LOW TIDE	0.58
6:02 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.06
12:55 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.01
7:14	HIGH TIDE	1.85

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:25 AM	5:08 PM
Saturday	-	5:10 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	-	5:56 AM	7:02 PM
Monday	-	6:45 AM	7:59 PM
Tuesday	-	7:35 AM	8:54 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Huawei hit by US export controls, potential import ban

By FRANK BAJAK and TALI ARBEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a fateful swipe at telecommunications giant Huawei, the Trump administration issued an executive order Wednesday apparently aimed at banning its equipment from U.S. networks and said it was subjecting the Chinese company to strict export controls.

Huawei would be the largest business ever subjected to the controls, a law enforcement measure that requires it to obtain U.S. government approval on purchases of American technology, said Kevin Wolf, who had been the assistant secretary of commerce for export administration in the Obama administration.

"It's going to have ripple effects through the entire global telecommunications network because Huawei affiliates all over the planet depend on U.S. content to function and if they can't get the widget or the part or the software update to keep functioning then those systems go down," he said.

Asked if that could include barring Apple from selling its Android operating system, which Huawei uses on its handsets, Wolf said it would be premature to say until he's seen a published order from the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security to be sure of the scope.

The executive order declares a national economic emergency that empowers the government to ban the technology and services of "foreign adversaries" deemed to pose "unacceptable risks" to national security — including from cyberespionage and sabotage.

AP
Receptionists are seen at work during a Huawei event to launch new software products in Beijing, China on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

While it doesn't name specific countries or companies, it follows months of U.S. pressure on Huawei. It gives the Commerce Department 150 days to come up with regulations.

Washington and Beijing are locked in a trade war that partly reflects a struggle for global economic and technological dominance, and Wednesday's actions up the ante.

The export restriction is a "a grave escalation with China that at minimum plunges the prospect of continued trade negotiations into doubt," said Eurasia Group analysts in a report.

"Unless handled carefully, this situation is likely to place U.S. and Chinese companies at new risk," the report said.

It appears the law invoked in Wednesday's executive order, the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, has never before been declared in a way that impacts an entire commercial sector. It has routinely been used to freeze the assets of designated terrorists and drug traffickers and impose embargoes on hostile former governments.

The order addresses U.S. government concerns that equipment from Chinese suppliers could pose an espionage threat to U.S. internet and telecommunications infrastructure. Huawei, the world's biggest supplier of network gear, has been deemed a danger in U.S. national security circles for the better part of a decade.

U.S. justice and intelligence officials say Chinese economic espionage and trade secret theft are rampant. They have presented no evidence, however, of any Huawei equipment in the U.S. or elsewhere being compromised by backdoors installed by the manufacturer to facilitate espionage by Beijing. Huawei vehemently denies involvement in Chinese spying.

Huawei said blocking it from doing business in the United States would hamper introduction of next-generation communications technology in which the company is a world leader.

"We are ready and willing to engage with the U.S. government and come up with effective measures to ensure product security," the company said in a statement.

FAA chief defends handling of Boeing Max safety approval

WASHINGTON (AP)—The acting chief of the Federal Aviation Administration defended his agency's safety certification of the Boeing 737 Max jetliner, the plane involved in two deadly crashes, and the FAA's decision not to ground the jet until other regulators around the world had already done so.

During a congressional hearing Wednesday, the FAA official, Daniel Elwell, also stood by the agency's decades-old policy of using employees of aircraft manufacturers like Boeing to conduct inspections on their own companies' work.

Boeing is updating an automated flight-control system that has been implicated in the two crashes involving the 737 Max. Elwell said he expects Boeing to complete its work "in the next week or so," after which the FAA will analyze the software changes and conduct test flights.

"In the U.S., the 737 Max will return to service only when the FAA's analysis of the facts and technical data indicate that it is safe to do so," Elwell said.

Meanwhile, the Senate Commerce Committee held a short hearing for President Donald Trump's choice to take over the FAA: Stephen Dickson, a former Delta Air Lines pilot and executive.

During the two-hour questioning of Elwell by the House aviation subcommittee, lawmakers pressed him on the FAA's reliance on designated Boeing employees during the planes' certification process.

Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., told Elwell that the public believes "you were in bed with those you were supposed to be regulating, and that's why it took so long" to ground the planes.

"The FAA has a credibility problem," declared the subcommittee chairman, Rick Larsen, D-Wash.

The 737 Max is Boeing's best-selling plane and it is built in his home state of Washington. Larsen said Congress must help make the public feel safe about flying because "if they don't fly, airlines don't need to buy airplanes," and "then there will be no jobs" in aircraft manufacturing.

Other lawmakers defended the FAA and Boeing and suggested that the Oct. 29 crash of a Lion Air jet off Indonesia and the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max were due at least partly to pilot error. A total of 346 people were killed in the crashes.

Judge orders FDA to speed up review of e-cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge is siding with public health groups suing the Food and Drug Administration to begin reviewing thousands of e-cigarettes on the U.S. market.

The ruling handed down Wednesday in district court states that the agency shirked its legal duty when it postponed reviewing all U.S. vaping products by several years.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and other groups filed the federal lawsuit in Maryland last year. The groups say the lack of FDA oversight has led to an explosion in underage vaping by teenagers, threatening to hook a generation of Americans on nicotine.

"It is now the FDA's responsibility to take immediate action to protect our kids and require manufacturers to apply to the FDA if they want to keep their products on the market," the groups said in a statement.

E-cigarettes are nicotine-emitting devices that have grown into a multibillion-dollar industry in the U.S. despite little research on their long-term health effects, including whether they are useful in helping smokers quit cigarettes.

The FDA gained authority to regulate the products in 2016, but it has allowed thousands of products to remain on the market without formal rules or product standards. The agency says that both FDA staff and manufacturers need more time to prepare for regulation.

The public health groups have warned that the lack of oversight could undo decades of anti-tobacco efforts as young people migrate toward newer vaping products.

U.S. Judge Paul Grimm agreed, calling the FDA's delay "so extreme as to amount to an abdication of its statutory responsibilities."

FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in an emailed statement that the agency is reviewing the court decision and "will continue to tackle the troubling epidemic of e-cigarette use among kids." The agency will have the option of appealing the decision.

Gregory Conley of the American Vaping Association said the government "must appeal this ruling" to "protect adult access to less harmful alternatives to cigarettes."

Under President Donald Trump's FDA commissioner, Scott Gottlieb—who departed last month—the FDA said it would not require e-cigarette manufacturers to submit their products for review until 2022. Shortly before stepping down Gottlieb moved the deadline up to 2021.

But Grimm's ruling suggests the FDA must move much faster. He calls for the health groups and the FDA to submit plans for moving forward with product reviews within 30 days.

Wednesday's ruling follows a similar decision last September, when a federal judge said the FDA must move ahead with adding graphic warning labels to cigarette packs. The FDA was required to take that step under a 2009 law, but the process has been bogged down by legal challenges from tobacco companies.

"The courts are clearly pushing FDA—at behest of medical and consumer groups—to step up their regulatory pressure on industry," said Marc Scheineson, a former FDA official who now advises companies with the law firm Alston & Bird.

Scheineson said he expects the FDA to argue that it doesn't have the resources to process the flood of applications that industry would submit if the ruling is enforced.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,648.02	2,850.96	7,822.15
+115.97	+16.55	+87.65
+.45%	+.58%	+1.13%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4460	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8485	Russian Ruble	64.6143
British Pound	0.7779	Indian Rupee	69.5510	Singapore Dollar	1.3685
Canadian Dollar	1.3438	Japanese Yen	109.4790	South Korean Won	1169.50
Chinese Yuan	6.7560	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1126	Swiss Franc	1.0084
Euro	0.8920	New Zealand Dollar	1.5265	Taiwan Dollar	30.6115
		Philippine Peso	51.3491	Thailand Baht	31.5135

Nation

Alabama governor signs near-total abortion ban into law

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama's Republican governor signed the most stringent abortion legislation in the nation Wednesday, making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases.

"To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God," Gov. Kay Ivey said in a statement.

The bill's sponsors want to give conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court a chance to gut abortion rights nationwide, but Democrats and abortion rights advocates criticized the bill as a slap in the face to women voters.

"It just completely disregards women and the value of women and their voice. We have once again silenced women on a very personal issue," said Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison, a Birmingham Democrat.

The abortion ban is set to go into effect in six months, but is expected to face a lawsuit to block it from halting abortion access.

Coleman-Madison said she hopes the measure awakens a "sleeping giant" of women voters in the state.

But Republican pollster Chris Kratzer noted that there is no congressional district and likely no legislative district with enough swing voters to put Republicans at serious risk in the state.

"The people who are outraged about this are not the people who are electing these guys, generally speaking, especially when we're talking about the primary," he said.

Further, Kratzer argued, there aren't enough potential swing voters and disenchanted Republicans to make the issue any kind of advantage for the lone Democrat elected to statewide office, U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, who scored a surprise win in a 2017 special election.

Jones upset Republican Roy Moore in part on the strength of GOP-leaning college graduates abandoning the controversial Moore. But Kratzer said that was more about Moore's long history of flouting federal courts as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and accusations that Moore sexually harassed teens when he was in his 30s—not Moore's hardline stance on abortion.

The legislation Alabama senators passed Tuesday would make performing an abortion at any stage of pregnancy a felony punishable by 10 to 99 years or life in prison for the provider. The only exception would be when the woman's health is at serious risk. Women seeking or undergoing abortions wouldn't be punished.

Rep. Terri Collins, the bill's sponsor, said she believes the measure reflects the beliefs of the majority of the state electorate. The vote came after 59% of state voters in November agreed to write anti-abortion language in the Alabama Constitution, saying the state recognizes the rights of the "unborn."

Ivey acknowledged Wednesday that the measure may be unenforceable in the short term. Even supporters have said they expect it to be blocked by lower courts as they fight toward the Supreme Court.

"It's to address the issue that Roe. v. Wade was decided on. Is that baby in the womb a person?" Collins said.

Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia recently have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can occur in about the sixth week of pregnancy. The Alabama bill goes further by seeking to ban abortion outright.

Abortion rights advocates vowed swift legal action.

"We haven't lost a case in Alabama yet and we don't plan to start now. We will see Governor Ivey in court," said Staci Fox, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeast.

Evangelist Pat Robertson on his television show Wednesday said the Alabama law is "extreme" and opined it may not be the best one to bring to the U.S. Supreme Court in the hopes of overturning Roe "because I think this one will lose."

"God bless them they are trying to do something," Robertson said.

One mile (1.6 kilometers) from the Alabama Statehouse—down the street from the Governor's Mansion—sits Montgomery's only abortion clinic, one of three performing abortions in the state.

Clinic staff on Wednesday fielded calls from patients, and potential patients, wrongly worried that abortion was now illegal in the state. They were assured abortion remained legal in the state.

Dr. Yashica Robinson, who provides abortions in Huntsville, said her clinic similarly fielded calls from frightened patients.

This photograph released by the state shows Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signing a bill that virtually outlaws abortion in the state on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in Montgomery, Ala. AP

Police execute search warrant at Catholic Diocese of Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—Investigators who were "thwarted" during earlier investigations of child sexual abuse by priests on Wednesday searched the offices of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas to obtain evidence of sexual misconduct, according to a police commander and police records.

Investigators searched the diocesan headquarters, a storage unit it uses and the offices of a church, police Maj. Max Geron told reporters.

"We believe at this point that the execution of the search warrants was wholly appropriate for the furtherance of the investigation at this point," Geron said.

The events began last August with the investigation of Edmundo Paredes , a former priest who is believed to have fled Texas following claims that he abused three teenagers. That investigation resulted in allegations of abuse by others, Geron said.

Copies of the warrants refer to the 70-year-old Paredes and four others. All five were named in a report released in January by the diocese that identified former priests credibly accused of sexually assaulting a child.

Paredes is suspended from the diocese; the other four are suspended, on leave, retired or removed from the ministry.

Police Detective David Clark in an affidavit supporting the warrants described a diocese that wasn't forthcoming with critical files and relied on personnel to identify predatory behavior when they had no background or training to do so.

Investigators in a meeting with diocesan attorneys in January requested the number of priests' files that were flagged for sexual abuse, Clark wrote in the affidavit.

ACROSS THE NATION

Migrant child dies in US custody; 4th since December

HOUSTON (AP)—A Guatemalan official says a 2½-year-old migrant child has died after crossing the border, becoming the fourth minor known to have died after being detained by the Border Patrol since December. Tekandi Paniagua, the consul for Guatemala in Del Rio, Texas, said Wednesday that the boy had entered the United States with his parent at El Paso, Texas, in early April. Paniagua said the boy had a high fever and difficulty breathing, and authorities took him to a children's hospital where he was diagnosed with pneumonia. The boy remained hospitalized for about a month before dying Tuesday. The Washington Post first reported his death. U.S. Customs and Border Protection didn't respond to a request for comment Wednesday. Advocates have long questioned the Border Patrol's ability to care for the thousands of parents and children in its custody. The agency says it's overwhelmed by the surge of migrant families crossing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Deputy fatally shoots man suspected of killing ex-girlfriend

TAMARAC, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Florida deputy fatally shot a man suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend. A Broward Sheriff's Office news release says a veteran sergeant shot 43-year-old Ronny Santana Rodriguez, who was armed with a knife Wednesday at a Tamarac home. The release says the ex-boyfriend killed 44-year-old Rosa Hilda Martinez and injured her new boyfriend. The new boyfriend was able to get three children and their grandmother out of the home to wait for deputies. When deputies confronted the ex-boyfriend in the home, they first used a stun gun before using deadly force, according to authorities. The ex-boyfriend was taken to a hospital, where he died. No deputies were injured. Sheriff's Office detectives are investigating the woman's death. State law enforcement officials are investigating the deputy-involved shooting.

Mom threatens class at LA-area school over bullied daughter

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (AP)—A mother has been banned from a Southern California school after she threatened a classroom full of students over the alleged bullying of her daughter. Cellphone video aired Wednesday by KCBS-TV shows a woman confronting a class at Niguel Hills Middle School south of Los Angeles. The woman vows to fight any adult relatives of kids who bully her daughter. The woman tells the students: "If you look at her the wrong way, if you breathe the wrong way, send your mom to me." The woman, identified as Christian Tinsley, told KABC-TV that she doesn't regret her act. She said her daughter had been bullied in school and online since the beginning of the year and was sexually harassed last Friday, leading to the suspension of a boy. "Kids are committing suicide every day because they're getting bullied, and I don't want that for my daughter," she said. "And so, what do I do when my daughter's afraid to go to school?" Principal Tim Reece informed parents in an email Tuesday that the teacher contacted the front office for help and the assistant principal escorted the woman out. The Capistrano Unified School District said the mother is banned from campus.

Asia

North Korea says it is suffering worst drought in decades

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it is suffering its worst drought in nearly four decades amid reports of severe food shortages.

The official Korean Central News Agency said an average of 54.4 millimeters (2.1 inches) of rain fell throughout the country in the first five months of this year. It said that is the lowest level since 1982, when North Korea received 51.2 millimeters (2 inches) of rain on average during the same period.

The report came after U.N. food agencies said in a joint assessment earlier this month that about 10 million people in North Korea were facing "severe food shortages" after the country had one of the worst harvests in a decade.

In February, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, issued an unusual appeal for urgent food assistance.

North Korean officials have blamed the food shortage on bad weather and international economic sanctions that were toughened after the country conducted a series of high-profile nuclear and missile tests in recent years.

In a high-stakes summit in Vietnam in February, President Donald Trump rejected North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's call for an easing of the sanctions in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step.

KCNA said the drought is expected to continue until the end of May. North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper reported Wednesday that officials and workers are attempting to find new water sources and mobilize pumps and irrigation equipment to minimize the damage to agriculture.

North Korea suffered a devastating famine in the mid-1990s that is estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people.

AP

In this June 24, 2015, file photo, farmers are dwarfed against a hill as they work in a corn field in South Hwanghae, North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rebel-claimed grenade attack injures 10 in northeast India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—A grenade lobbed from a motorcycle at a police checkpoint in the heart of a northeastern Indian city injured 10 people on Wednesday in an attack immediately claimed by a separatist leader. The blast happened as police checked vehicles at a barrier in front of a busy shopping mall in Gauhati, the capital of the state of Assam, according to Gauhati Police Commissioner Deepak Kumar. Paresh Baruah, the exiled leader of the United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) rebel group, which has been fighting for independence from India for decades, called local TV stations to claim the attack, recordings of which were later broadcast on local TV news. The condition of the injured, including two paramilitary troopers, was not immediately clear. India's northeast region is home to dozens of separatist groups that accuse the government of exploiting the area's natural resources while doing little for the indigenous people. Explosions caused by rebels are common, though Wednesday's attack was the first such incident in about two years. Assam security forces were already on high alert, Kumar said, after the Islamic State group-claimed coordinated suicide bombings in Sri Lanka on Easter that killed more than 250 people, and because of a possible threat from a so-called affiliate of the withered caliphate across the porous border in Bangladesh.

Philippines recalls envoys in Canada over trash shipments

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine foreign secretary says the ambassador and consuls in Canada are being recalled over Ottawa's failure to take back truckloads of garbage that Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago. Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. tweeted Thursday that the Philippines "shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there." President Rodrigo Duterte threatened last month to forcibly ship the containers of garbage back to Canada and dump some at its embassy in Manila if Canadian officials don't take back the waste by May 15. More than 100 containers of household trash, including plastic bottles and bags, newspapers and used adult diapers, were shipped in batches from Canada to the Philippines from 2013 to 2014.

Stamp to honor WWII battleship where Japan surrendered

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service will issue a stamp honoring the famous World War II battleship the USS *Missouri* that was the site of Japan's unconditional surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay. The Postal Service says that the commemorative Forever stamp will be issued on June 11 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of her commissioning. A first-day-of-issue ceremony will be held that day at the Pearl Harbor memorial, where a section of the ship is being repaired as part of a $3 million restoration project to address rust and other deterioration. The stamp shows the battleship, which was affectionately nicknamed "Mighty Mo," cutting through the water with clouds looming in the background. Designed by art director Greg Breeding, the stamp features a digital illustration created by Dan Cosgrove.

Australian opposition leader favorite to win election

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Bill Shorten, the man most likely to become Australia's prime minister in elections on Saturday, has the solid support of his center-left Labor Party behind him. But the Australian public isn't so sure.

Shorten first found the public spotlight as a miners' union boss in 2006 when the world media was transfixed on a gold mine collapse drama that ended with the rescue of two miners who had been trapped underground for two weeks. He is still contending with accolades and condemnation for saying three years ago that some of then-presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's views were "barking mad."

While the party he leads is popular, Australians have not warmed to the idea of Shorten becoming their next prime minister.

Even though the ruling conservative Liberal Party-led coalition has lagged behind Labor in opinion polls for the past two years, Shorten has been rated a less popular leader than Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the prime minister Morrison replaced in a Liberal Party revolt nine months ago, Malcolm Turnbull.

But despite an apparent lack of charisma, most experts expect that the 52-year-old Shorten will lead his party into power for the first time in six years.

Shorten became opposition leader in 2013 under Labor's new democratized voting system that for the first time gave more than 30,000 grass-roots party members the same say as Labor lawmakers on the choice of their leader in Parliament. Previously the decision had been lawmakers' alone.

Most lawmakers backed Shorten, who had long been a party power broker. Most of the unelected party members opted for his left-wing rival, Anthony Albanese.

While Shorten narrowly won the day and the party has appeared united under his leadership since, his lack of public appeal has seemed a vulnerability.

Morrison has cast the election as a simple choice between him and Shorten as prime minister. A government-aligned minor party, the United Australia Party, has dubbed Shorten "Shifty" in campaign advertising.

Labor advertising emphasizes its leadership team, highlighting Albanese, as well as high-profile women Tanya Plibersek and Penny Wong.

The Labor ads also highlight the party's higher proportion of female lawmakers and its claim to greater unity than the conservatives, who remain bitterly divided over rivalries that resulted in the Liberal Party removing its own prime minister in 2015 and again last year.

Nick Economou, a Monash University political analyst, disregards opinion polls about the popularity of party leaders, saying the parties' support is what counts.

An extraordinary feature of Australian politics is that voting is compulsory. In the absence of inspiring leaders, voters turn out in large numbers to avoid a 20 Australian dollar ($14) fine.

"It's not about the popularity of the leader, unless of course the leader is such a stinker that it can affect the vote," Economou said.

"People underestimate Shorten, but all the tests that have been set for him so far have been passed," he added.

Those tests include leading his party close to victory in 2016 elections and retaining Labor seats in five by-elections since then.

Opposition leaders are often unpopular at the federal and state levels because of the nature of the role, which is often described as the hardest job in politics. Opposition leaders are seen as negative and obstructionist.

Trump seemed a long shot for the White House when Shorten criticized him in a radio interview on May 27, 2016, during Australia's last election campaign.

"I think Donald Trump's views are just barking mad on some issues," Shorten said.

"America's a great friend of Australia; whoever they dish up we'll work with, but wow, Trump's sort of — it's sort of the ultimate victory of celebrity politics," he added.

Then-Prime Minister Turnbull accused Shorten of potentially offending Australia's most important strategic ally by breaking a long-standing Australian convention of avoiding taking sides in U.S. political contests.

Shorten has long stopped publicly criticizing Trump.

World

Venezuelan government, opposition to talk in Norway

AP
Residents speaks with National Police at the entrance of Helicoide prison in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, May 9, 2019, where Edgar Zambrano, vice president of the opposition-controlled National Assembly is being held after his arrest the previous night.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Representatives of the Venezuelan government and opposition traveled to Norway for talks on resolving the crisis in the South American country, officials said Wednesday, opening a new chapter in a political stalemate after months of street demonstrations and a failed opposition call for a military uprising.

The development appeared to reflect a recognition that neither side had been able to prevail in the struggle for power, leaving Venezuela in a state of paralysis after years of hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine. It was also a policy reversal for the opposition, which has accused President Nicolás Maduro of using previous negotiations to play for time.

Senior members of both sides will be involved in the exploratory discussions in Oslo, said members of Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. Delegations from the two opposing camps had received separate invitations from a group of Norwegians, one official said.

The representatives include Information Minister Jorge Rodríguez on the government side and Stalin González, a leading member of the National Assembly, the officials said.

Maduro did not directly comment on the talks during televised remarks, but he said Rodríguez was on a "very important" mission outside Venezuela.

The planned talks seemed likely to dampen speculation that the United States, the main backer of the Venezuelan opposition, might be considering military action as a way to end the crisis in the near term. U.S. officials have previously said they are focusing on diplomatic and economic measures to force out Maduro, though opposition leader Juan Guaidó said his Washington envoy will meet with the head of the U.S. Southern Command on Monday.

The two sides are currently far apart on many issues. The opposition has insisted that Maduro was illegitimately elected last year and that he must step aside to make way for elections. Maduro, in turn, accuses the opposition of being U.S. stooges intent on illegally seizing power.

The Norway dialogue comes as a mostly European group of nations prepares to send a high-level delegation to Venezuela to propose solutions to the country's protracted crisis. The International Contact Group consists of eight European countries, the European Union and four Latin American countries.

The group formed after Guaidó, the head of the National Assembly, declared himself Venezuela's interim president early this year in a direct challenge to the rule of Maduro, who says his government champions the socialist principles of his predecessor, Hugo Chávez.

The opposition, which is backed by the United States and about 50 other nations, say Venezuela's dire economic state is the result of years of corruption and mismanagement. Maduro blames the country's problems on U.S. sanctions that were imposed more recently.

Also Wednesday, the United States suspended all commercial passenger and cargo flights between the U.S. and Venezuela, saying the political unrest and tensions there pose a risk to flights.

The announcement by the Department of Homeland Security affected a dwindling number of flights between the two countries, since U.S. airlines no longer fly to Venezuela. The measure reflected the increasingly sour relationship between the Venezuelan government and the U.S.

US pulls nonessential staff from Iraq amid Mideast tensions

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. on Wednesday ordered all nonessential government staff to leave Iraq, and Germany and the Netherlands both suspended their military assistance programs in the country in the latest sign of tensions sweeping the Persian Gulf region over still-unspecified threats that the Trump administration says are linked to Iran.

Recent days have seen allegations of sabotage targeting oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, a drone attack by Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels, and the dispatch of U.S. warships and bombers to the region.

At the root of this appears to be President Donald Trump's decision a year ago to pull the U.S. from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, embarking on a maximalist sanctions campaign against Tehran. In response, Iran's supreme leader issued a veiled threat Tuesday, saying it wouldn't be difficult for the Islamic Republic to enrich uranium to weapons-grade levels.

The movement of diplomatic personnel is often done in times of conflict, but what is driving the decisions from the White House remains unclear. A high-ranking British general said there was no new threat from Iran or its regional proxies, something immediately rebutted by the U.S. military's Central Command, which said its troops were on high alert, without elaborating.

Last week, U.S. officials said they had detected signs of Iranian preparations for potential attacks on U.S. forces and interests in the Middle East, but Washington has not spelled out that threat.

An alert on the website of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad said all nonessential, nonemergency U.S. government staff were ordered to leave Iraq right away under State Department orders. That includes those working at the U.S. Consulate in Irbil. The U.S. Consulate in Basra has been closed since September following a rocket attack blamed on Iranian-backed militias.

The U.S. in recent days has ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Gulf region, plus four B-52 bombers.

Germany's military said it was suspending training of Iraqi soldiers due to the tensions, although there was no specific threat to its own troops in Iraq. Defense Ministry spokesman Jens Flosdorff said Germany was "orienting itself toward our partner countries" though there are "no concrete warnings of attacks against German targets."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer expressed concern over the tensions and said it welcomes "any measure that is aimed at a peaceful solution." Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Adebahr said the German government has not reduced its embassy staff in Iraq or Iran.

In the Netherlands, state broadcaster NOS said its 50-person military mission in Iraq was halted "until further orders," quoting a Defense Ministry spokesman as saying he couldn't elaborate on the threats. It said the Dutch forces primarily train Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State militants.

Sudan's army, protesters strike some deals in negotiations

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudan's ruling generals and opposition leaders behind the protests that drove President Omar al-Bashir from power last month said Wednesday they have made significant progress in negotiations and have agreed on the length of the country's transition period.

The two sides, which have been at odds over the transfer of power to civilian rule and the extent of the military's role in it, said the transition would last three years.

The military ousted al-Bashir on April 11, after nearly four months of mass protests against his 30-year rule.

But the demonstrators remained on the streets, demanding the military hand over power to civilian rule and have since been holding negotiations with the military council.

Activists said clashes flared up Wednesday between protesters and forces from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces who attempted to remove barricades in a main street in Khartoum.

The Sudanese Professionals Association said the RFS used batons and whips to disperse protesters. It said at least nine people were wounded.

The Sudan Doctors Committee, which is part of SPA, said Wednesday night that at least 14 people, all of them young people, were wounded in the clashes, including seven from gunshots.

Ahmed Rabie, a spokesman for the SPA, told AP that talks were suspended late Wednesday by the military council. He said the council has called for the removal of barricades and opening of the roads in Khartoum and elsewhere in the country.

The agreement announced Wednesday marks a significant step toward resolving the standoff between the military and the protesters and could help the Sudanese return to some sort of normalcy.

In a joint press conference Wednesday, Lt. Gen. Yasser al-Atta, a member of the military council, said the two sides agreed to a three-year transition period. The priority for the first six months will be to get the various armed rebel groups across the country to agree to peace talks, he said.

The protesters are represented by the Forces for the Declaration of Freedom and Change, a coalition of opposition groups led by the Sudanese Professionals Association, a union umbrella that has spearheaded the protests against al-Bashir since December.

Al-Atta said the two sides also agreed on the makeup of a 300-member, all-civilian transitional legislative body. He said two thirds of this interim parliament will be made up of representatives of the protesters while the remaining third will be made up of parties that were not part of al-Bashir's regime.

What's now left on the negotiating table is the makeup of the sovereign council, a deal al-Atta said he hoped would be reached by the next day.

"Within less than 24 hours, there will be a complete deal, and the Sudanese people will celebrate of achieving the goals of their peaceful revolution," he said.

Focus

By PAUL WISEMAN, MARTIN CRUTSINGER and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP ECONOMICS WRITERS

AP
In this Nov. 9, 2017, file photo, U.S. President Donald Trump, right, chats with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Tensions between the world's two biggest economies intensified over the last week. The Trump administration more than doubled tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese imports and spelled out plans to target the $300 billion worth that aren't already facing 25% taxes. The Chinese have punched back by upping tariffs on $60 billion in U.S. imports.

US, China trade conflict was 20 years in the making

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S.-China trade blowup was a long time coming.

And it won't be easily resolved, not even if U.S. and Chinese negotiators reach a truce in the next few weeks that reassures jittery financial markets.

Tensions between the world's two biggest economies intensified over the last week. The Trump administration more than doubled tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese imports and spelled out plans to target the $300 billion worth that aren't already facing 25% taxes. The escalation covers everything from sneakers to toasters to billiard balls.

The Chinese have punched back by upping tariffs on $60 billion in U.S. imports.

Eleven rounds of negotiations have failed to settle a dispute over Beijing's aggressive push to challenge U.S. technological dominance—a campaign, the U.S. alleges, that includes stealing technology and forcing foreign companies to hand over trade secrets.

"The United States has legitimate grounds to be upset with the Chinese," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "This has been building for almost 20 years."

It wasn't supposed to be this way. When China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, optimists expected China to open its economy. And maybe the Chinese Communist Party would allow more political freedom as the country increased contact with the world's industrialized democracies.

But the results have been disappointing.

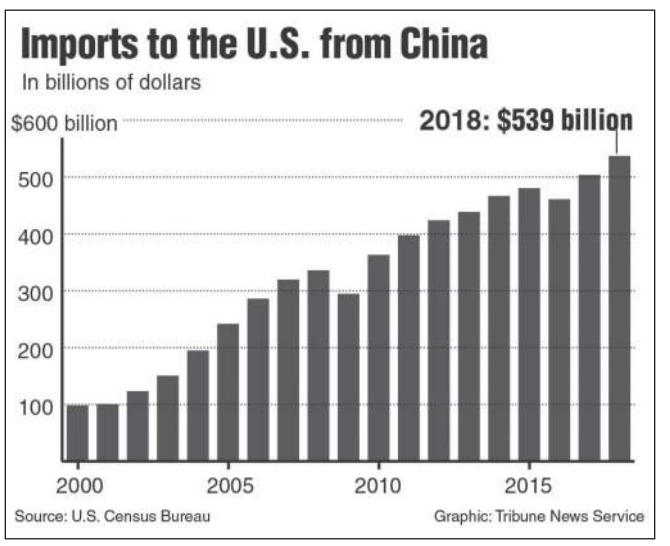
China has used its WTO membership to flood other countries with exports, while limiting foreign access to its own market. "Their vision is in a lot of ways zero sum," said Blaine Johnson, a policy analyst who specializes in Asia at the liberal Center for American Progress.

The result is a badly lopsided trading relationship: The U.S. trade deficit with China last year hit a record $379 billion.

"China has effectively used the multilateral trading system to its own advantage, enjoying the benefits of those rules of engagement while not always following those rules in spirit," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist and former head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund.

Critics now say the Geneva-based WTO, which sets trade rules and mediates disputes, was ill-equipped to handle China's unorthodox blend of capitalism and state control. In the Chinese system, it is tough to tell whether a company is seeking profits in the conventional way or is acting with the support and on behalf of the government to achieve China's strategic goals. The U.S., for example, says that the telecommunications equipment supplied by China's Huawei can be used to spy on foreign countries.

"China's economy is fundamentally different— even unique," Mark Wu of Harvard Law School wrote in an influential 2016 paper. "The WTO rules, as written, are not fully equipped to handle the range of economic problems associated with China's rise."



Frictions have increased since Xi Jinping became the Chinese leader in 2012. Beijing in 2015 unveiled an ambitious program, Made in China 2025, to turn Chinese companies into world leaders in advanced fields like robotics and artificial intelligence.

But the U.S. says China is trying to meet its aspirations by stealing trade secrets, coercing technology transfers, subsidizing its own firms and burying in red tape foreign companies that want to compete in the Chinese market. Last year, the U.S. began imposing tariffs to pressure China to drop the aggressive tactics.

Talks to resolve the dispute have foundered in part on America's insistence that any deal contain provisions that will force China to keep its commitments.

"China is unlikely to give in to the American demands," economist Sung Won Sohn of Loyola Marymount University wrote this week. "To China, it is more than a trade issue: they see America bullying a new emerging economic and military rival. It reminds China of the humiliation the country suffered in the 19th century when the western powers imposed unfair treaties on China."

Still, many analysts expect the two countries to find a way back from the brink—at least in the near term. Each has an incentive to end the dispute. The Chinese economy is decelerating, and the trade war with the United States is worrying China's consumers and businesses. In the United States, the dispute jeopardizes a stock market rally that President Donald Trump touts as a vote of confidence in his economic stewardship.

The two countries are expected to resume talks that broke off Friday but haven't scheduled anything yet. Trump has said that he expects to meet Xi in late June at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan.

Cheng Li, director of the China Center at the Brookings Institution, admits there's no way the U.S. and China can resolve all the issues that divide them. But he says continued economic cooperation between the two countries is vital: It gives them common interests and helps prevent their rivalry from escalating into political and perhaps even military conflict.

"Despite all the tensions, no American soldier has died in (East Asia) since the Vietnam War," Li said. "That's a great achievement."

So, can the U.S. and China end the current dispute and continue their uneasy economic relationship? "We can and we must," Li said. "The stakes are so high."

Off The Wall

California cafe touts its $75 coffee as the world's priciest

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California cafe is brewing up what it calls the world's most expensive coffee—at $75 a cup.

Klatch Coffee is serving the exclusive brew, the Elida Natural Geisha 803, at its branches in Southern California and San Francisco.

The 803 in the coffee's name refers to the record-breaking $803 per pound the organic beans sold for at a recent auction after winning the Best of Panama coffee competition, said Bo Thiara, co-owner of the Klatch branch in San Francisco. He calls the annual competition the coffee world's equivalent of the Oscars.

Only 100 pounds (45 kilograms) of the beans were available for purchase, and most went to Japan, China and Taiwan, Thiara said. Klatch secured 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) and is the only chain in North America to have it.

The coffee's high quality and limited supply set off a bidding war that determined its astronomical price, topping last year's winning beans that sold for $601 per pound, Thiara said.

Klatch describes the coffee as a rare variety of Arabica from Panama that has a floral, tea-like flavor with hints of jasmine and berries. The 10 pounds of beans will produce about 80 cups of coffee, Thiara said.

AP

Klatch Coffee owner Bo Thiara, left, talks with customer Daniel Karel while giving Karel a tasting of Elida Natural Geisha coffee at his shop in San Francisco, Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

A few lucky coffee lovers got to try free samples Wednesday at the San Francisco branch, where promotional signs are on display advertising, "World's Most Expensive Coffee."

One of them was San Francisco resident Lauren Svensson, who said it was "very different" from any coffee she'd ever tasted.

"My mind was a little blown about the fact that a$75 cup of coffee even exists," she said, "but it was shockingly good."

Her friend, Charlie Sinhaseni, also gave his free sample a positive review.

"When I first looked at it, I thought it would be hyper pretentious, and I would think of all the different notes for the coffee, but I was too busy enjoying it," he said.

IN LOVING MEMORY
†JOAQUIN SANTOS SALAS
BORN TO LIFE: JUNE 25, 1971 CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: MAY 11, 2019
In his new life he now joins his:
Father: †Atanacio Tydingco Salas
Mother: †Maria Santos Salas
Father In-law: †Victorino P. Villamor
Mother In-law: †Aniceta D. Villamor
His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Corazon Villamor Salas
Children & Family:
Cindy & Antonio Reyes
Michael & Marie Cris Villamor
(Johnwyn & Jhelmar)
Brothers, Sisters & In-Law:
Martin/Theresa Salas and children
†Vicente/Sophia (Rita) Salas, children and grand children
†Antonio/Rosalina Salas, children & grand children
Emanuel Salas, children & grand children
†Jose Salas, children & grand children
†Cynthia/Allan Rodeo, children & grand children
Sylveria Salas/children and grand children
†William/Yvonne Salas and children
Ramon/Dorinda Salas, children and grand children
Melinda/Augustin Naputi, children and grand child
Diego/Keiko San Nicolas and children
He is also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.
Funeral services will be held on Monday, May 20, 2019. His remains will be escorted from CHCC Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:00am. Responso service will commence upon arrival, followed by viewing and last respects.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 8:30am, followed by interment services at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.
Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Corazon Villamor Salas, Children and Family

Nebraska farmer cuts off trapped leg using pocket knife

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A farmer says he had to cut off his own mangled leg with a pocket knife after it became trapped in a grain hopper in northeastern Nebraska.

KETV reports that 63-year-old Kurt Kaser, of Pender, was unloading corn last month when he accidentally stepped on the opening of the hopper and his leg was sucked inside by a device designed to deposit grain in a bin.

Kaser said he couldn't free his leg, he was alone and he didn't have his cellphone. So he took out his pocket knife and sawed off his leg below the knee.

He then crawled 150 feet (45 meters) to a phone and was flown to a hospital. He never lost consciousness.

Kaser will get a prosthetic limb once his leg has fully healed.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Danish candidate places election ad on adult site

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—While most of the candidates for Denmark's general election are making good use of the internet, posting their promises on websites and social media, one has gone a step further. Joachim B. Olsen, an Olympic shot put silver medalist who has been a member of the Folketing for the center-right Liberal Alliance since 2011 placed an ad bearing the party logo and encouraging people to vote for him on one of the world's top adult websites, Pornhub. On his official Facebook profile, Olsen confirmed that he was responsible for the ad: "Yes, it's me on Pornhub. Olsen told Denmark's B.T. newspaper Sunday that "election campaigns are serious ... but there must also be some humor."

Police: 5-year-old brings crack cocaine to preschool

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia police are investigating after a 5-year-old boy brought about two dozen vials of crack cocaine into a preschool at a Roman Catholic church. Police say the boy told a teacher's aide at St. Cyprian Children's Center that the person who handed him the bag told him to hide it. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia tells WTXF-TV that the teacher's aide took the bag, which she suspected held drugs, informed an administrator, and they called 911. No other children came in contact with the drugs, and no one was harmed.

Police: South Dakota man stole sex toys from couple's house

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota man is accused of stealing $500 worth of sex toys from a couple's home over a period of about two years. The Argus Leader reports that 25-year-old Brody Fuchs, of Tyndall, is charged with second-degree burglary. Bon Homme County Sheriff's Deputy Brian McGuire says Fuchs took "a bunch" of the items from a residence in Tyndall, which is near the Nebraska border. An affidavit says the couple had installed a camera system inside the house, which caught Fuchs entering the home for about 40 seconds, then leaving. A deputy recovered a number of sex toys during a search of the suspect's residence. McGuire did not say whether Fuchs knew the couple.

Snake turns up in washing machine smelling 'like Downy'

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP)—An escaped pet snake that apparently slithered into a suburban Chicago family's washing machine ended up smelling like fabric softener after going through the wash. Sanela Kamencic tells WMAQ-TV she was "totally creeped out" when the snake turned up Wednesday in the washing machine in Evanston. Police Officer Pedro Carrasco and Animal Control Warden Jason Pound brought the reptile to the Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital. Carrasco says it was "peeking its head out of the washing machine" when they found it." Pound says it "smelled like Downy" after surviving the wash cycle. Veterinarian Melissa Giese tells radio station WBBM the snake was "in pretty good shape" and "really feisty." The animal hospital says the corn snake, named Penelope, belonged to a 12-year-old boy who lives nearby. They were reunited afterward.

Semi-trailer hauling honey overturns along Indiana highway

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP)—A semi-trailer hauling honey overturned on a northwestern Indiana highway, spilling some of the sticky substance and restricting travel for hours. State police say the semi was hauling about 41,000 pounds (18,600 kilograms) of amber honey along Interstate 80/94 through Hammond when the driver lost control and the truck overturned about 6 a.m. CST Wednesday after its front axle apparently failed. At least four large containers of honey began leaking, and the overturned semi was also leaking diesel fuel. The crash prompted the closure of three of the highway's eastbound lanes at Calumet Avenue in Hammond. Police urged motorists to avoid what they called the "sticky situation" and seek alternate routes. Police spokeswoman Sgt. Ann Wojas says all eastbound lanes were reopened about eight hours after the crash.

Science & Technology

Why some Mac software will soon be outdated

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q My four-year-old MacBook Pro is warning me that eight of my programs "will not work with future versions of MacOS and need to be updated to improve compatibility." Some of these programs are well-known software, such as "Microsoft Office Utilities" and "Amazon Music." I use the Mojave 10.14.4 operating system. What should I do?

A: The warning is misleading. You don't need to "improve compatibility" for those eight programs, because they work perfectly well with your present operating system. But you will need to upgrade to newer versions of the programs in order to use them on Apple's next Mac operating system, due out later this year.

The new Mac operating system doesn't yet have an official name, and is known only as "macOS 10.15." While Apple hasn't specified when it will be released, experts believe it will be announced this summer and available to consumers in the fall (for more about likely operating system features, see tinyurl.com/y4c3gddc).

Why do you need to upgrade the programs that generate the warning? Because they are all 32-bit software, which is now old technology. They process 32 bits of data at once, which limits both their speed and the amount of computer memory they can use (about 4 gigabytes.)

Apple has said the new Mac operating system will be able to use only newer, 64-bit programs that run faster and can use about 30 times as much memory.

Upgrading to 64-bit versions of your eight programs should be relatively easy, because software makers have known for some time that this change was coming. For instance, you can already find 64-bit Mac versions of Microsoft Office 2019 ($150, see tinyurl.com/yaamffvk) and Amazon Music (free, see tinyurl.com/nuchkbp).

Q Do all four of the "duplicate photo finder" programs you recommended (see tinyurl.com/y4lt5xz4) let you preview different versions of the same photo before some are deleted? Do these programs also delete photo duplicates from a cloud storage account?

A Three of the programs allow you to view duplicate photos before anything is deleted. They are Easy Duplicate Finder (tinyurl.com/y9qldqcs); Duplicate Photo Finder (tinyurl.com/ybh6tq77); and Duplicate Cleaner (tinyurl.com/mfl56n3).

Whether the photo deletions are carried over to a cloud account depends on which provider you use. For example, if you automatically back up your photos to the cloud, photo deletions will be copied to a Microsoft OneDrive account but not to an IDrive account.

Q I have a 13-year-old Dell Dimension 5100 that I'd like to upgrade to Windows 10. I previously upgraded it from Windows XP to Windows 7.

A Dell publishes a list of its PCs that have been tested for Windows 10 compatibility (see tinyurl.com/yxmksafz). No Dell Dimension models appear in that list, so it's unlikely that your PC can run Windows 10.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Science Matters
Solving the case of the Great Dying
Earth's greatest biological catastrophe, the Great Dying, came 252 million years ago. The Permian period ended, later followed by the Age of Dinosaurs. But why did it happen?
Ancient volcanoes in Siberia
Earlier studies have pointed to ash and toxins, spread worldwide by eruptions of the vast volcanic "Siberian traps," as a main cause of the Great Dying
New research found deposits of mercury, lifted into air by the Siberian volcanoes, were laid down in the oceans, part of the environmental destruction at the end of the Permian period
Deep layers of lava are still visible in the Siberian traps
Pangaea, the Permian world
One giant supercontinent of Pangaea was surrounded by a superocean, Panthalassa
Siberian Traps
N
S
North had intense heat, swinging from wet to dry
South was cold and dry, with ice caps
Panthalassa
PANGAEA
Large mammal-like saber-tooth gorgonops were top predators
Shrimp-like sea scorpions as long as a crocodile hunted small sea creatures
What was lost in the Great Dying
90% of Earth's species. 95% of ocean animal species. Nearly all the trees, as well as two-thirds of large land animal species.
Source: Jun Shen of China University of Grosciences; Nature Communications journal; S. Burgess at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Henrik Svensen (Siberia photo); National Geographic
Graphic: Helen McComas, Tribune News Service

Walmart ups game with next day shipping

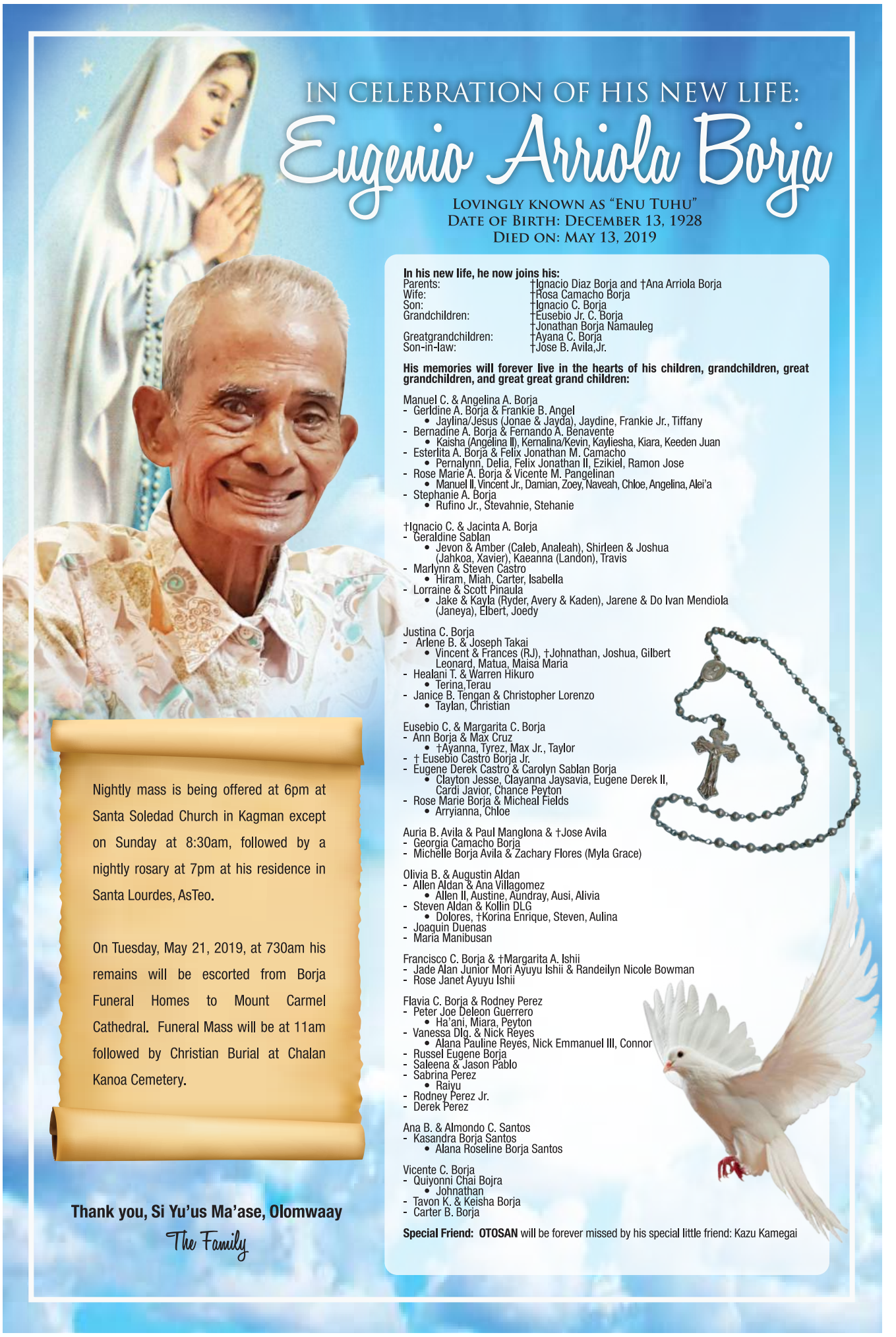
NEW YORK (AP)— Walmart is rolling out free next-day delivery on its most popular items, increasing the stakes in the retail shipping wars with Amazon.

The nation's largest retailer said Tuesday it's been building a network of more efficient e-commerce distribution centers to make that happen. The next-day service will cover 220,000 popular items from diapers and non-perishable food items to toys and electronics. That's nearly double the number of items it carries in its stores.

Next-day delivery, which will require a minimum order of $35, will be available in Phoenix, Arizona, and Las Vegas on Tuesday. In coming days, it will expand to southern California. The discounter plans to roll out the service to 75% of the U.S. population by year-end. It will also be adding hundreds of thousands more products as the program expands.

The announcement comes just two weeks after online behemoth Amazon said it's upgrading its free shipping option to Prime members who pay $119 a year to one-day delivery from two-day delivery. Amazon has declined to say when the switch will happen, but it already offers one-day delivery for some items in certain areas.

Walmart says the new delivery program has been in the works for a while.


IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE:
Eugenio Arriola Borja
LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "ENU TUHU"
DATE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 13, 1928
DIED ON: MAY 13, 2019
In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Ignacio Diaz Borja and †Ana Arriola Borja
Wife: †Rosa Camacho Borja
Son: †Ignacio C. Borja
Grandchildren: †Eusebio Jr. C. Borja
†Jonathan Borja Namauleg
Greatgrandchildren: †Ayana C. Borja
Son-in-law: †Jose B. Avila,Jr.
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grand children:
Manuel C. & Angelina A. Borja
- Gerldine A. Borja & Frankie B. Angel
• Jaylina/Jesus (Jonae & Jayda), Jaydine, Frankie Jr., Tiffany
- Bernadine A. Borja & Fernando A. Benavente
• Kaisha (Angelina II), Kernalina/Kevin, Kayliesha, Kiara, Keeden Juan
- Esterlita A. Borja & Felix Jonathan M. Camacho
• Pernalynn, Delia, Felix Jonathan II, Ezikiel, Ramon Jose
- Rose Marie A. Borja & Vicente M. Pangelinan
• Manuel II, Vincent Jr., Damian, Zoey, Naveah, Chloe, Angelina, Alei'a
- Stephanie A. Borja
• Rufino Jr., Stevahnie, Stehanie
†Ignacio C. & Jacinta A. Borja
- Geraldine Sablan
• Jevon & Amber (Caleb, Analeah), Shirleen & Joshua (Jahkoa, Xavier), Kaeanna (Landon), Travis
- Marlynn & Steven Castro
• Hiram, Miah, Carter, Isabella
- Lorraine & Scott Pinaula
• Jake & Kayla (Ryder, Avery & Kaden), Jarene & Do Ivan Mendiola (Janeya), Elbert, Joedy
Justina C. Borja
- Arlene B. & Joseph Takai
• Vincent & Frances (RJ), †Johnathan, Joshua, Gilbert Leonard, Matua, Maisa Maria
- Healani T. & Warren Hikuro
• Terina,Terau
- Janice B. Tengan & Christopher Lorenzo
• Taylan, Christian
Eusebio C. & Margarita C. Borja
- Ann Borja & Max Cruz
• †Ayanna, Tyrez, Max Jr., Taylor
- † Eusebio Castro Borja Jr.
- Eugene Derek Castro & Carolyn Sablan Borja
• Clayton Jesse, Clayanna Jaysavia, Eugene Derek II, Cardi Javior, Chance Peyton
- Rose Marie Borja & Micheal Fields
• Arryianna, Chloe
Auria B. Avila & Paul Manglona & †Jose Avila
- Georgia Camacho Borja
- Michelle Borja Avila & Zachary Flores (Myla Grace)
Olivia B. & Augustin Aldan
- Allen Aldan & Ana Villagomez
• Allen II, Austine, Aundray, Ausi, Alivia
- Steven Aldan & Kollin DLG
• Dolores, †Korina Enrique, Steven, Aulina
- Joaquin Duenas
- Maria Manibusan
Francisco C. Borja & †Margarita A. Ishii
- Jade Alan Junior Mori Ayuyu Ishii & Randeilyn Nicole Bowman
- Rose Janet Ayuyu Ishii
Flavia C. Borja & Rodney Perez
- Peter Joe Deleon Guerrero
• Ha'ani, Miara, Peyton
- Vanessa Dlg. & Nick Reyes
• Alana Pauline Reyes, Nick Emmanuel III, Connor
- Russel Eugene Borja
- Saleena & Jason Pablo
- Sabrina Perez
• Raiyu
- Rodney Perez Jr.
- Derek Perez
Ana B. & Almondo C. Santos
- Kasandra Borja Santos
• Alana Roseline Borja Santos
Vicente C. Borja
- Quiyonni Chai Bojra
• Johnathan
- Tavon K. & Keisha Borja
- Carter B. Borja
Special Friend: OTOSAN will be forever missed by his special little friend: Kazu Kamegai
Nightly mass is being offered at 6pm at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman except on Sunday at 8:30am, followed by a nightly rosary at 7pm at his residence in Santa Lourdes, AsTeo.
On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 730am his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Funeral Mass will be at 11am followed by Christian Burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay
The Family

Life & Style

‘Big Bang Theory’ stars reflect on show’s end, next steps

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—With “The Big Bang Theory” ending after 12 seasons, viewers can comfort themselves with reruns. The cast has those—and residuals— but not the reassuring workplace rhythm and camaraderie.

During the closing days of taping the hour-long finale that airs at 8 p.m EDT Thursday on CBS, stars Jim Parsons, Kaley Cuoco, Johnny Galecki, Mayim Bialik, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar and Melissa Rauch spoke to The Associated Press about their experiences on the top-rated comedy, and about what they’ll do next.

CUE THE KLEENEX

Cuoco: There’s a lot of emotions going on, very bittersweet. It’s very strange that a lot of people are coming up to me saying, “How are you?” like someone died.

Parsons: It’s a real rite of passage moment in your life. And much like more “normal rites of passage,” be it a bar mitzvah or a wedding or a graduation, there is a feeling of accomplishment. And like those events people also tend to cry, even if they are happy and they know that this was organic and the way life is supposed to go.

Nayyar: The thing I’m going to miss most is my banter with Simon, with everyone, the fact that we’ve gotten along so well. There’s not a lot of places you can go anymore that you feel safe just being yourself.

Rauch: I think it’s going to hit me around the time we normally come back after a hiatus. In August, when I’m gearing up because we’re coming back, I think it’s going to be, “Oh, I have a table read coming up,” and realizing that I don’t.

MOVING ON

Parsons: I’m still very focused on continuing to seek out work as an actor almost exclusively. I’m not finding anything like writing or directing or anything else that’s overtly calling me. I’m just trying to keep moving and active as I can so that the right next thing will speak loudly when I see it.

Cuoco: For me, producing. I’d love to continue to work as an actor but I love the development process, and I just started dipping my toe into it a year ago. I enjoy putting pieces together.

Helberg: I picture myself growing a beard, and waking up at noon and sitting at the piano playing music, or trying to get into photography. Sounds kind of romantic. My favorite thing to do is act, so I’m going to do a play in the fall.

Nayyar: When we started “Big Bang,” there weren’t a lot of opportunities for South Asian actors. And now what’s happening you’re getting the best of both worlds (here) and in India. We make 900 movies a year in Bollywood. Now you have Netflix India, you have Amazon India. There are many beautiful, big novels that are being made for this cross-cultural platform, and they’re looking for talent and I hope I can help fill some of those roles.

Bialik: I have a couple of projects that I’m looking to produce for other women, and obviously the science space is somewhere that I live in always. But I think I’ve never been at a place in my career where I could have more of a voice.

Galecki: I really enjoy being more a part of the storytelling. I made the same mistake a lot of actors do, assuming that the process starts with your first day on set and ends with the wrap party. To be in the room when the seminal idea is hatched and nurtured through to the end is really exciting for me.

Rauch: My husband and I write together, and we have our production company here at Warner Bros. And also just spending time with my kiddo is a good thing to do.

‘BIG BANG,’ FOR POSTERITY

Cuoco: We are in a very modern era where everything is streaming, everything is binge-watch. Our show is as classic as it gets. People still want to tune in and I like that idea of television. I like being able to talk about it all week and look forward to your favorite episode of a show. We don’t have that as much anymore.

Galecki: It’s a show all about relationships and that’s timeless. And I hope it will endure. I don’t see a time where 100 years from now that wouldn’t resonate or be relatable.

Bialik: If I were a young student at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) and this show had existed, I would have loved the male characters as much as the female, because I think for a lot of women that kind of (science) interest is very genderless.

Rauch: That it’s inspired a lot of young girls to go into STEM is so exciting to me.

THE END: A BANG OR A WHIMPER?

Bialik: We’re just hoping I don’t have to be pregnant.

Parsons: We’re obviously on this Nobel trajectory which is going to wrap. I feel like we might lose. We aren’t, at the end of the day, real people who could be listed in the history books on the Nobel. So do we want to go that way?

Cuoco: It should just end with all of us around the table eating Chinese food, like we always do. Simple as that. And I want them to fix the elevator. Or not fix it, but address it in some way.

Helberg: I don’t want anyone to die. That would be pretty definitive and not funny either, necessarily. Unless they fell down the elevator shaft, that would tie it all in.

Optimus Prime, Megatron remember 35 years of Transformers

MIAMI (AP)—The Autobots have been waging their battle to destroy the evil forces of the Decepticons for 35 years, but there’s no sign the men who voice the Transformers franchise’s two most iconic characters would ever take up ion blasters or fusion cannons against each other.

Peter Cullen and Frank Welker have been heard in children’s homes across the United States since the fall of 1984 as the heroic Optimus Prime and villainous Megatron respectively.

They continue to lend their voices to both live-action and animated versions of the characters, and they’ll be infinitely more like to exchange jokes and old stories than deadly blows from a laser sword during appearances Thursday and Friday at MegaCon Orlando.

Transformers originated when the U.S. toy company Hasbro bought the rights to several existing Japanese toy lines that featured transforming robots and rebranded them for American children. A cartoon, “The Transformers,” was developed to help market the toys.

Welker, 73, got his first major voice-acting role in 1969 as Fred, the handsome, ascot-wearing leader of Mystery Inc. in “Scooby Doo, Where Are You!” He spent more than a decade after that voicing a host of friendly and comedic characters.

“When I saw Megatron, it gave me an opportunity to play a very nasty, evil character, and it was so much fun,” Welker said during a combined interview with Cullen.

Welker said he was especially impressed the first time he saw the toy of his character. It transformed into a silver and grey Walther P38 pistol. Welker said it would take him more than an hour to transform the toy, while young fans could do it in minutes.

In this Tuesday, June 20, 2017 file photo, Peter Cullen, left, and Frank Welker pose for a photo at the U.S. premiere of “Transformers: The Last Knight” at the Civic Opera House in Chicago. Cullen and Welker could be heard in children’s homes across the United States starting in the fall of 1984 as the heroic Optimus Prime and villainous Megatron respectively. AP

“I was thinking this is just another job, but it’s pretty darn clever,” Welker said.

While the original cartoon ran just a few years, it left an indelible mark on pop culture. The toy lines continued, and a slew of spin-off cartoon series and comics were produced over the next two decades. This culminated in the launch of a multi-billion-dollar, live-action film franchise in 2007.

Before his audition, Cullen, 77, only knew that he would be reading for the part of a truck, though giving voice to a vehicle didn’t seem that crazy.

“You’re always auditioning for something in animation that’s a little off of the norm,” Cullen said.

When Cullen read about the heroic Autobot leader that turned into a red cabover semitrailer, he thought about his older brother, who had served as a U.S. Marine in the Vietnam War.

“He was my hero, and he certainly was the mainstay behind the character,” Cullen said. “I just did an impression of Larry, and he’s still alive in my mind today because every time I do Prime, there’s my brother Larry.”

Cullen’s brother, Capt. H.L. Cullen, died in 2011 and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

When performing as Optimus, Cullen’s warm tenor voice drops to an authoritative baritone. The voice has stayed consistent over the years, from various animated series to live-action films.

Welker said Megatron’s voice, on the other hand, has changed with nearly every iteration.

“To me, it was all part of the Transformers world and is a little bit more like what Megatron might do,” Welker said.

Welker’s natural speaking voice is essentially the voice he’s used to play Shaggy and Scooby’s pal Fred for 50 years. But when he was cast as Megatron in the original cartoon series, he said he gave the evil Decepticon leader a contemptuous, mechanical rasp. When he returned to the character for a new animated series in 2010, following the success of the live-action films, he said producers wanted him to sound more human, to reflect what actor Hugo Weaving had done with the role in the live-action films. And after Weaving left the franchise, Welker said he adjusted the voice further when he took over as Megatron in the latest live-action movies.

In recent years, Cullen and Welker have been attending conventions around the country to meet with fans from multiple generations.

“It can bring tears to your eyes,” Cullen said. “I’m not exaggerating.”

Cullen said parents and children bond over Transformers at the conventions, with the parents sometimes getting more excited than the children. And he doubted this week would be different.

“I expect that I will run into a father with his son, and the father will more than likely get choked up,” Cullen said. “And then I get choked up, and then the kid is saying ‘What are these two grown men getting choked up about?’”

MegaCon Orlando runs from Thursday to Sunday.

Mick Jagger has his moves back after health problems

NEW YORK (AP)—It’s as if Mick Jagger is saying “Start Me Up.”

The 75-year-old rocker tweeted a video Wednesday of him dancing around a studio in front of a mirror weeks after he underwent medical treatment , reportedly for a heart valve issue. The treatment forced the Rolling Stones to postpone its No Filter tour.

Jagger was told by doctors in late March he could not go on tour “at this time.” Jagger tweeted he was “devastated” the band couldn’t tour, but said he hoped to be “back on stage as soon I can.”

The Stones’ No Filter Tour was expected to start April 20 in Miami.

Kelly Clarkson to sing national anthem at Indianapolis 500

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Kelly Clarkson will sing the national anthem at this year’s Indianapolis 500.

It will be the second straight year and the third time the Grammy Award-winning superstar will perform on race day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. She also sung the anthem before the 2011 race.

The appearance comes just five days after the season finale of NBC show “The Voice,” where Clarkson serves as a coach. NBC will televise the 500 for the first time on May 26.

In making the announcement Tuesday, speedway president Doug Boles called Clarkson a “global icon” and an “incredible singer.”

Clarkson, a Texas native, was the inaugural winner of “American Idol” in 2002.

Julianne Moore on gender parity: 'I believe in quotas'

CANNES, France (AP)—Julianne Moore said Wednesday that larger efforts are needed in order for the movie industry to reach gender parity, and that means implementing quotas.

"We will not have gender parity unless everybody is cooperating. Women are not a special interest group. We're 52 percent of the global population," Moore said during an event at the Cannes Film Festival. "In order to restore the balance, I do think that there will be, that we will need some measures to change our culture."

Moore

"We will have to make major changes to reach parity. That's just a fact. So, I do believe in quotas. I really do," added Moore. "I believe in trying to level the playing field for everybody regardless of their gender or their culture or ethnicity. You have to open doors."

While gender quotas haven't been much discussed in Hollywood, they're more common in Europe where filmmaking is often partly supported by public money. Sweden, Norway and Ireland have instituted 50-50 quotas in allocating public funds for male and female filmmakers, as has the British Film Institute.

Women made up 8% of directors on the top 250 films at the U.S. box office last year, down from 11 percent the year before, according to a study in January from San Diego State University's Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film.

Moore spoke Wednesday at a Mastercard MasterClass event alongside Werner Herzog and Xavier Dolan. In Cannes, she stars in the short film "The Staggering Girl" directed by Luca Guadagnino, which is playing in the Directors' Fortnight section.

Lamar Odom regrets cheating on ex-wife, Khloé Kardashian

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former NBA star Lamar Odom regrets cheating on his ex-wife, Khloé Kardashian, and lying to her about his addiction to cocaine during their four-year marriage.

The 39-year-old tells People magazine he wishes he "could have been more of a man" and it still bothers him now, three years after they divorced. He also says he misses the Kardashian family.

In excerpts from Odom's upcoming book, "Darkness to Light," Odom wrote he was the happiest he's ever been after they married in 2009, one month after they met. But he eventually began having affairs and he wrote he couldn't handle the "lethal cocktail of the spotlight, addiction, a diminishing career and infidelity."

He says Kardashian was by his side after his near-fatal overdose in 2015 and today he's drug-free.

Met Museum: No more money from family connected to OxyContin

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Museum of Art on Wednesday said it would stop taking monetary gifts from members of the Sackler family who are connected to the pharmaceutical company that makes OxyContin, cutting a longstanding philanthropic relationship at a time when cultural institutions are coming under increasing scrutiny over their donors.

The Sackler family overall has a multi-decade history with the Met and other cultural institutions, and there is a wing named for them at the museum that houses the well-known Temple of Dendur.

But there has been increasing criticism over institutions accepting money from the branches of the Sackler family that are connected to Purdue Pharma, which makes OxyContin.

Purdue and the Sacklers connected to it are being sued over accusations revolving around their role in the nation's opioid crisis.

Museum President and CEO Daniel Weiss said the family overall had "graciously supported" the museum for 50 years but "nevertheless, in consideration of the ongoing litigation, the prudent course of action at this time is to suspend acceptance of gifts from individuals associated with this public health crisis."

In a statement to The New York Times, the Sacklers linked to Purdue Pharma said that "while the allegations against our family are false and unfair, we understand that accepting gifts at this time would put the Met in a difficult position. We respect the Met and that is the last thing we would want to do. Our goal has always been to support the valuable work of such outstanding organizations, and we remain committed to doing so."

'Fire and Fury' author has new Trump book out in June

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of "Fire and Fury" has more inside stories on the Trump administration.

Michael Wolff's "Siege: Trump Under Fire" comes out June 4, Henry Holt and Company announced Wednesday. Like the million-selling "Fire and Fury," which came out last year, "Siege" promises a juicy, behind-the-scenes look at the current White House and a president who is "volatile, erratic, and exposed." The new book will focus on tensions amid Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged ties between Russian officials and the Trump presidential campaign. According to Holt, Wolff spoke to more than 150 "sources," although the publisher declined to say whether any are currently in the administration.

"Fire and Fury" was among the first books to extensively document the ongoing conflicts in the Trump White House.

SOLD! FOR $91-PLUS MILLION AP

This undated photo provided by Christie's Images Ltd. auction house shows Jeff Koon's "Rabbit." The sculpture was sold at auction by Christie's on Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in New York for over $91 million. The sale was the most expensive work by a living artist ever sold at auction. The previous record for a living artist's work sold at auction was set by British artist David Hockney. His 1972 "Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)" brought in $90.3 million at Christie's last year. The New York Times says Robert E. Mnuchin, an art dealer and the father of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, was the winning bidder for "Rabbit," which had an estimated sale price of at least $50 million.

UK tabloid talk show canceled after death of guest

LONDON (AP)—British broadcaster ITV on Wednesday canceled a popular, long-running daytime reality show after the death of a guest who failed a lie-detector test during a recording.

The case has renewed debate about the ethics of tabloid television, and sparked a parliamentary inquiry into the regulation of programs that put members of the public under intense scrutiny.

ITV chief executive Carolyn McCall said "The Jeremy Kyle Show" was being scrapped "given the gravity of recent events."

The tabloid-style talk show, which had run for 14 years and specialized in emotive, confrontational showdowns, was pulled after 63-year-old Steve Dymond was found dead at a home in Portsmouth, southern England, on May 9.

Media reported that he had killed himself. Police said the death was not suspicious, and a post-mortem will be held to determine the cause.

On an episode filmed earlier this month, Dymond took a lie-detector test to convince his fiancee that he had not been unfaithful, but was told he had failed.

The episode has not been aired.

Guests glued to cellphones can wear out their welcome

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a nice home in the desert Southwest with an in-ground pool and guesthouse. Our friends and relatives from back east have an open invitation to visit whenever they please. We enjoyed these visits until recently.

The problem is their ever-present compulsion to be connected to an electronic device. We are not yet retired, but in the past we didn't mind taking a few days off work to spend time with folks who came all the way out here to spend a few days with us. But it seems like nowadays our guests have their noses pointed at a phone or computer most of the time they are here. They have actually missed the beauty of our area, which we are missing work to show them, because they are otherwise engaged.

Is there a pleasant way to ask them to disconnect for a bit while we are enjoying their visit, or should I just get in the grumpy old lady line? I want our visitors to have a good time, but I find this behavior especially rude.

ALMOST DONE IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR ALMOST DONE: It's possible that your guests don't realize how much time they're spending on their computers and cellphones. Because you are so turned off you are considering rolling up the welcome mat, explain to your guests that you have given them an open invitation so you can enjoy each other's company, and you are hurt that they spend so much time on their electronic devices. Nobody gets something for nothing, and it seems the "quid" has gone missing from the "pro quo" you have been offering.

DEAR ABBY: I am a male who was molested 30 years ago. It has troubled me into adulthood. Recently, my boss informed my crew that a convicted pedophile will be working on a trial basis on our shift. The moment he said it, it started setting off triggers in my head, and I am very angry about it.

When I told my boss about my childhood experience, he acted like he didn't want to hear it. Do I have any rights in this matter? I really can't work with a man who has hurt another child like I was.

TROUBLED VICTIM

DEAR TROUBLED VICTIM: You absolutely do have rights. You have the right to request a different shift, if that's possible. If it isn't, you also have the right to look for another job. If that's the case, it will be interesting to know how many of the other employees will follow you out the door.

DEAR ABBY: A good friend's wife is currently in hospice care and not expected to live much longer. While I was at Walmart the other day, I passed through the card department and, because I was already there, I figured I would purchase a condolence/sympathy card. When my inner circle discovered I had bought the card before she passed, they criticized me to no end. I thought it was an efficient thing to do. I'm not wrong, am I?

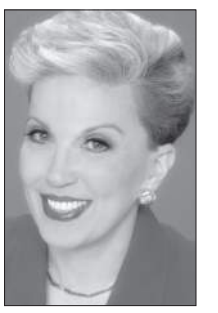
EFFICIENT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR EFFICIENT: Oh, come on! There was nothing wrong with what you did. Many people buy cards of all types because they think the message is appropriate. You thought of your friend and his wife while you were in the card section, and it is the thought that counts—not the date of purchase. If you made any mistake, it was in letting it be known that you purchased the card in advance. In a situation like this, discretion is key.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

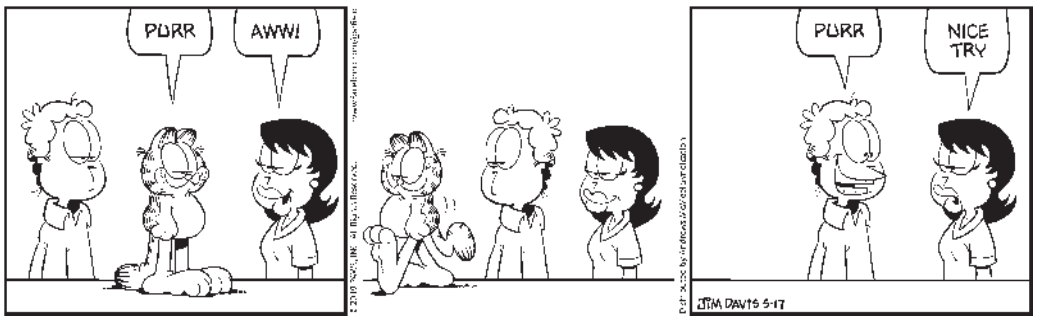
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STARTED A SECRET CLUB JUST TO EXCLUDE GIRLS! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH GIRLS!
SEE, HOBBES? GIRLS ARE SO EMOTIONAL.
YOU'RE THE MEANEST, MOST ROTTEN LITTLE KID I KNOW! WELL, FINE! PLAY WITH YOUR STUFFED TIGER! SEE WHAT I CARE! I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH A STINKER LIKE YOU ANYWAY!!
WOW, WHAT A GREAT CLUB!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



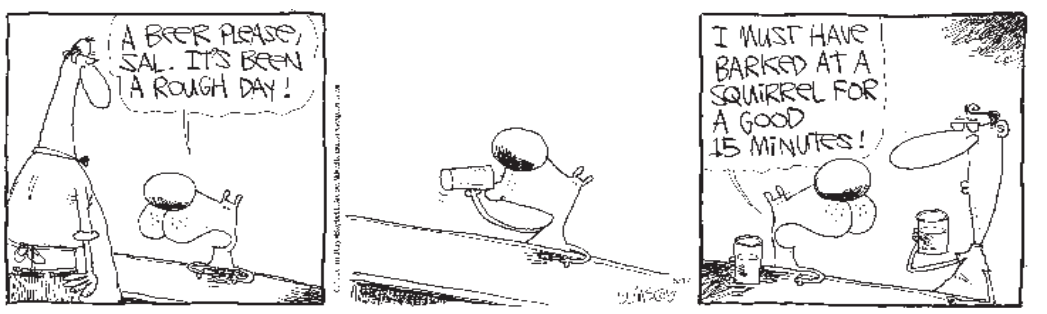
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW WAS THE THINKIN' TREE? ANY BOOK IDEAS?
NO. IT WAS FINE, TILL WE GOT ATTACKED BY SOME SUPER-AGGRESSIVE SQUIRRELS WHO...
WARRING SQUIRREL TRIBES FIGHTING OVER THEIR MAJESTIC TREE HOME!! THE PATHOS! THE SYMBOLISM!
THE TREE WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pot brew
4 Rosary component
8 Tempo
12 Rowing need
13 Scarce
14 "Damn Yankees" vamp
15 Polish composer Chopin
17 Squad
18 Oust from office
19 Not 'neath
21 Show to a seat, slangily
22 Established rule
26 Kick out
29 Cat's coat
30 Ms. Longoria
31 Chaste
32 River blocker
33 Till bills
34 Wyo. neighbor
35 Corral
36 Sanctify
37 — acid
39 Luau bowlful
40 Khan title
41 Blacksmiths' blocks
45 Indolent
48 Curry powder spice
50 Dayton's state
51 "Do — others ..."
52 "I love," to Livy
53 Autograph
54 Take five
55 Bottom line

DOWN

1 Bean curd
2 Deserve
3 God of war
4 Chicken serving
5 Third rock from the sun
6 "Exodus" hero
7 Propriety
8 Book jacket write-up
9 Long time
10 "The Greatest"
11 Make lace
16 Wimbledon tie
20 Where Lux. is
23 Actress Russo
24 Currier's partner
25 Mama — Elliot
26 Monumental
27 Dame Dench
28 Part of Q.E.D.
29 Summer cooler
32 Illinois city
33 Martini garnish
35 Glutton
36 Witticism
38 Synthetic fabric
39 Segments
42 Persia, today
43 Rickey flavor
44 Kilt wearer
45 Part of UCLA
46 Sashimi fish
47 Sharp turn
49 French article

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	O	O	F	■	M	A	A	M	■	W	A	G
A	C	I	I	F	■	F	I	A	■	F	I	O
W	H	O	L	E	M	I	L	K	■	L	E	O
K	O	K	C	M	O	■	■	E	L	L	E	N
■	■	■	N	O	■	B	O	S	O	M	■	■
P	A	W	S	■	U	V	■	■	A	L	E	■
I	M	A	■	■	E	R	A	■	■	D	E	E
G	A	R	B	■	A	L	L	■	S	E	A	L
■	■	■	M	U	R	K	Y	■	A	H	■	■
F	I	O	N	A	■	■	A	R	O	M	A	S
A	D	V	■	W	I	D	E	M	O	U	I	H
R	O	■	■	L	I	A	R	■	I	S	M	E
O	L	E	■	S	I	N	O	■	N	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 5-17

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
18						■	19	20		■	■	■
■	■	■	21			■	22			23	24	25
26	27	28			■	29			■	30		
31				■	32			■	33			
34			■	35			■	36				
37			38			■	39			■	■	■
■	■	■	40			■	41			42	43	44
45	46	47		■	48	49						
50					51				■	52		
53				■	54					55		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nikki Reed, 31; Derek Hough, 34; Trent Reznor, 54; Bob Saget, 63.

Happy Birthday: Take a serious look at the past, and rethink what you want to accomplish this year. Personal improvement should be your plan with the intent to do whatever it takes to reach your ultimate goal. Count on your skills, stamina and determination to help you reach your destination and receive accolades for your hard work and keen sense of timing. Your numbers are 2, 6, 17, 23, 32, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be gentle and understanding when dealing with others. Anger will lead to trouble. Avoid discord by taking care of what's expected of you before someone complains. Don't believe everything you hear or trust someone who is manipulative or asking for too much. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put a little excitement in your life and show some enthusiasm when it comes to personal relationships. Rely on your keen sense of awareness, and make choices you know will please someone you love. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't let life get too complicated. If someone is trying to take advantage of you, know enough to walk away. Too much of anything will be what leads to trouble. Simplicity and keeping your relationships running smoothly should be priorities. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the lead and see who follows. You have what it takes to get things going and to make a contribution and a difference to whatever and whoever you decide to get involved with. Love, romance and personal change are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep your emotions tucked away until you see where everyone else stands. Making noise before you have all the pertinent information will put you in a vulnerable position. Focus on personal gain, fitness, children and socializing. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Communication will be key when trying to get your message across. Whether dealing with friends, colleagues or relatives, share your thoughts and feelings in order to resolve any issues that could dismantle your plans. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You won't have to look for trouble; it's sure to find you if you are dealing with someone who is cranky or indulgent. Concentrate on personal accomplishments that deal with finances, health or any pending legal matters. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Drop in on someone you trust to give you valid information. A change in attitude will take place as you discover what's been going on and what your options are. A partnership with someone special could be mutually beneficial. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Work alone, and don't share secrets or private information that could be used against you. Choose to be moderate in all you do, and you'll avoid being talked about or taken advantage of by someone who isn't trustworthy. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make positive changes at home. Getting along with the people around you will encourage greater opportunities and the chance to work toward a goal you share with someone special. Discipline and hard work will pay off. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't careful how you react or respond. Think twice before getting involved in someone else's problems. Focus more on what you can do to broaden your outlook, skills and direction. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Draw on your resources to make things happen. Call in favors and choose quality over quantity. Stick to your game plan, and use your skills and knowledge to give back to those who have helped you advance. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are driven, intuitive and energetic. You are resourceful and intelligent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4				7		1		2
	9						8	
5				8				
			6		4			
7		5				6		1
			7		3			
				2				8
	8						4	
2		9		3				5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	5	4	3	7	6	2	1
7	4	6	2	1	5	9	3	8
1	3	2	9	6	8	5	7	4
3	8	9	5	4	6	2	1	7
2	1	4	7	9	3	8	6	5
5	6	7	1	8	2	3	4	9
9	2	8	3	7	1	4	5	6
6	5	1	8	2	4	7	9	3
4	7	3	6	5	9	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LOUISIANA GUMBO **Solution: 10 letters**

F	D	E	K	O	M	S	C	C	S	P	I	C	Y	G
L	I	I	F	L	O	U	R	A	N	L	W	O	B	R
A	C	S	N	T	O	E	U	E	J	F	O	O	D	A
V	E	H	H	N	O	T	B	R	O	U	X	K	A	V
O	D	Y	I	L	E	A	A	B	E	A	N	S	E	Y
R	M	Ⓞ	E	C	R	R	Y	P	E	P	P	E	R	E
E	N	C	Ⓚ	C	K	L	E	A	F	A	T	S	B	K
L	W	D	E	Ⓡ	N	E	K	R	O	E	T	I	N	R
L	P	C	U	L	Ⓐ	I	N	S	L	S	L	M	R	U
I	M	R	I	C	E	R	M	L	O	T	A	M	O	T
U	I	O	L	L	K	R	I	E	E	E	S	E	C	P
O	R	A	B	N	R	K	Y	Y	S	W	A	R	M	O
D	H	A	O	C	S	A	B	A	T	B	R	O	T	H
N	S	S	A	U	S	A	G	E	A	L	O	N	A	C
A	M	O	R	A	S	N	A	P	P	E	R	I	T	S

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Andouille, Aroma, Bay, Beans, Bowl, Broth, Cajun, Canola, Celery, Chicken, Chop, Cook, Cornbread, Crab, Creole, Diced, Dinner, Duck, Fats, Fish, Flavor, Flour, Food, Garlic, Gravy, Kielbasa, Leaf, Mince, Oil, Okra, Onion, Parsley, Pepper, Rice, Roux, Salt, Sausage, Sauté, Shrimp, Simmer, Skillet, Smoked, Snapper, Spicy, Stew, Stir, Tabasco, Thyme, Tomato, Turkey, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Avant-garde

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-085

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 17, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW PICK-UP TRUCK, 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – BROWN TREE SNAKE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-DLNR/DFW-086

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 17, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW WAVE RUNNER JETSKI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – ENFORCEMENT SECTION"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859 | Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0252
ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING Date: July 18, 2019 Time: 9:00 am Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hilda V. Rios has filed a Response to in the above-titled matter. The hearing on the Evidentiary Hearing is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this day 13th of May , 2019.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: (1) ACCOUNTANT

Job Description: Prepare, examine, or analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to accounting reporting and procedural standards; Perform financial data backups and disaster recovery operations; Report to management regarding the finances of establishment from company's AX accounting system; Establish tables of accounts, codes, and assign entries to proper income and expense accounts; Develop, implement, modify, and document record keeping and accounting systems, making use of company's current computer technology; Compute federal/local taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting, or other tax requirements; Record and audit each store's daily sales report; Reconciles daily cash sales, card sales, and foreign currency sales against company bank financial records; Post stores daily sales and vendor invoices on company's AX accounting system and corresponding Quick Books accounting ledger; Maintain and examine the records of government sales accounts; Recommend changes to improve systems and network configurations by working closely with the company Systems Administrator and corporate principals; Prepare timely payments for all vendors every 15th and end of month; Prepare quarterly purchasing budget for all vendors; Prepare vendor receivables and consignment; Establishes FOREX (Foreign Exchange) Rate; Prepare month end BGRT and Financial Statement; Year End financial statements; Year End Bank Reconciliation; Prepare accurate monthly Travel Agent Commission (Shopping Card) Report; Develop, maintain, and analyze budgets, preparing periodic reports that compare budgeted costs to actual costs; Conducts internal audit of company financials; Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice.

Minimum Qualifications: Must have atleast a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce or Any Related Field; With at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

Others: Must be proficient in the use of retail accounting softwares, such as QB, Dynamic AX System, and ACCUPOS and Must be flexible and able to work on weekends and holidays.

Job Site: Beach Road, RTE 30, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

LEO RULUKED
HR/DC Manager
AC PACIFIC LLC dba STAR SANDS PLAZA
Office Address: Beach Road RTE 30, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 503842 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: leo_ruluked@yahoo.com
Telephone Number: (670) 233-4140
Fax Number: (670) 233-4141

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Automotive Service Technician and Mechanic
Hours: Full-Time
Company: Yaong Corporation
Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

Duties and Responsibilities:
Examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Repair and service air conditioning, heating, engine cooling, and electrical systems. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear. Replace parts such as pistons, rods, gears, valves, and bearings. Repair manual and automatic transmissions. Install and repair accessories such as mirrors and windshield wipers. Repair or replace shock absorbers. Replace or adjust headlights. Overhaul or replace carburetors, blowers, generators, distributors, starters, and pumps. Repair radiator leaks. Align vehicles' front ends.

Qualification Requirements:
High school graduate plus six months training as Automotive Service Technician or Mechanic. Two years work related experience required. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their uses, repair, and maintenance. Ability to use acetylene/cutting torches, dial calipers, drill/punch presses, hand-held diagnostic computers, and bleeder/flare nut/pump/slug wrenches. Must be able to diagnose gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly. Job requires being honest, ethical, reliable, responsible, and dependable

To apply:
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Background check may be required prior to employment

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Bucks finish with a flourish to top Raptors

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Down for most of the game, clearly rusty at times after nearly a full week off, the Milwaukee Bucks looked very much like a team in trouble.

Until the fourth quarter.

The team with the NBA's best record this season found its stride at the perfect time.

Brook Lopez scored 13 of his career playoff-high 29 points in the fourth quarter, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 24 points and the Bucks closed the game on a 10-0 run to beat the Toronto Raptors 108-100 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Wednesday night.

Milwaukee forced Toronto to miss its final eight shots and outscored the Raptors 32-17 in the fourth.

"I think it speaks a little bit to the character of the group," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "They just stick with it. I think it's become a little bit of a theme in the playoffs: I think eventually, hopefully, we feel like if we stick with what we're doing good things will happen for us."

Lopez had a dunk with 2:20 left to put the Bucks ahead for good, added a 3-pointer on the next Milwaukee possession to push the lead to four and the Bucks — after trailing for the overwhelming majority of the game — did just enough in the final minutes to grab the series lead.

"I think this game definitely made us better," Antetokounmpo said.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 15 and Nikola Mirotic had 13 for Milwaukee, which closed the game on a 10-0 run.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' George Hill and Toronto Raptors' Pascal Siakam go after a loose ball during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball playoff finals Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in Milwaukee.

"We just did a great job of sticking with what we've been doing all postseason long," Lopez said.

Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points and Kyle Lowry added 30 for the Raptors, who led by as many as 13 early and took an 83-76 lead into the final quarter. Lowry was 5 for 7 in the fourth—and his teammates were 0 for 15.

"Fourth quarter killed us, 32-17," Lowry said. "They outplayed us in that fourth quarter. They got a little bit more aggressive. They made some big shots, made some big plays. It sucks when you lose like that. But we had our chance and we've got to learn from it."

Lopez added 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who had three players post double-doubles. Antetokounmpo had 14 rebounds and Khris Middleton finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee, which is now 9-1 in this postseason.

The Bucks trailed for 37 of the game's 48 minutes.

Didn't matter. They stayed just close enough until they could finish with a serious kick.

"The way guys competed and just got after it ... stands out to me," Budenholzer said.

Pascal Siakam scored 15 for Toronto, including a 3-pointer over Antetokounmpo to end the third quarter and give the Raptors a seven-point lead with 12 minutes left.

It unraveled quickly from there. And now the Raptors, who came in on the high of winning a second-round Game 7 on a buzzer-beater by Leonard, have two days to regroup.

"The game is over," Toronto's Marc Gasol said. "We got to look back at it and learn but we can't think too much about it. You come out Game 2 and try to win. You can't replay this one."

With the chants of Milwaukee's motto—"Fear the deer! Fear the deer!"—bouncing throughout the building, the Bucks predictably came out flying.

The flurry was brief.

The Bucks missed seven consecutive shots, the Raptors made four 3-pointers in a span of three minutes, and that all helped become a 16-0 run by Toronto that turned an early 8-3 deficit into a 19-8 edge. The lead got as big as 13 later in the quarter on a fadeaway jumper by Leonard, and the Raptors held the lead the rest of the half.

Milwaukee had a chance to take its first lead since the opening minutes when Antetokounmpo went to the line for a pair of free throws with 8:17 left in the third and the Bucks down by one. He missed both and the Raptors peeled off the next nine points to rebuild a 10-point lead again.

But Toronto shot 5 for 22 in the fourth, the Bucks finally reclaimed the lead, and the Raptors' chance to steal homecourt went awry.

"We gave ourselves a chance to win on the road in an Eastern Conference final," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "And it didn't turn out."

With Pau Gasol injured, George Hill is the only Milwaukee player who had appeared in a conference finals game before Wednesday. The Raptors have seven players who had been in at least one previously: Leonard, Danny Green and Serge Ibaka are all in this round for the fifth time, while Lowry, Marc Gasol, Norman Powell and Patrick McCaw have also been in this round before.

Pelicans going at own pace after hitting lottery jackpot

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In the NBA city most familiar with "gris-gris," folks see no small measure of poetic justice in the fact that their team will dictate the fate of a coveted prospect named Zion.

Mystical explanations aside, the Pelicans are in the driver's seat now—but say they're in no hurry to disclose their plans for likely pick Zion Williamson or disgruntled All-Star Anthony Davis.

A franchise that looked downtrodden for months since Davis requested a midseason trade has been suddenly buoyed by the leverage that comes with winning the NBA's draft lottery—and the option to pick the Duke star, widely seen as the best pro prospect since Davis entered the league in 2012.

"What it's doing to the franchise and to the city of New Orleans is probably not even measurable at this point," said David Griffin, hired just weeks ago as New Orleans' top basketball executive. "There's a groundswell of excitement that frankly is palpable.

"What has to come next is that we have to make it mean something. This is a lot of fun, but we've got to build a winner now."

It was welcome news for beleaguered sports fans in Louisiana, who had endured a rough start to 2019.

It started with the "NOLA no-call," a pair of missed penalties in the waning minutes of the NFC championship that likely cost the NFL's Saints a Super Bowl berth. Fans were so angry that many joined lawsuits against the league or attended parties on Super Bowl Sunday which featured re-runs of the Saints' 2010 title triumph instead of the most recent championship game between New England and the Los Angeles Rams.

Less than two weeks later, Davis, the city's six-time NBA All-Star and face of the Pelicans, publicly requested a trade , and the firing ninth-year general manager Dell Demps followed not long after.

Even at the major college level there was disappointment when one of LSU's best campaigns in program history was tainted by the suspension of coach Will Wade amid questions surrounding his recruiting tactics. Wade wasn't reinstated until after LSU was eliminated in the third round of the NCAA Tournament, and his future remains far from certain.

Political commentator James Carville—a Louisiana native, New Orleans resident and avid sports fan—said Wednesday that the recent series of setbacks had led him to adopt a pessimistic theory that, "We are a cursed people, and so all we're going to get is curses."

Johnson, Bird to get Lifetime Achievement Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, whose coast-to-coast rivalry in the 1980s propelled the NBA to a new level of popularity, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Hall of Famers and 1992 U.S. Olympic teammates will receive the award on June 24 at the NBA Awards, the league and Turner Sports announced Wednesday.

The honor comes on the 40th anniversary of their meeting in the 1979 NCAA championship game, when Johnson's Michigan State team beat Bird's Indiana State squad. That is still the highest-rated game on television in college basketball history.

The two would see plenty more of each other across the next decade after Johnson went to the Los Angeles Lakers and Bird to the Boston Celtics. The Lakers won five championships in the 1980s and the Celtics won three, and the interest they drew forged a friendship and helped the NBA move past its struggle for mainstream attention and set the stage for basketball to become one of the world's most popular sports.

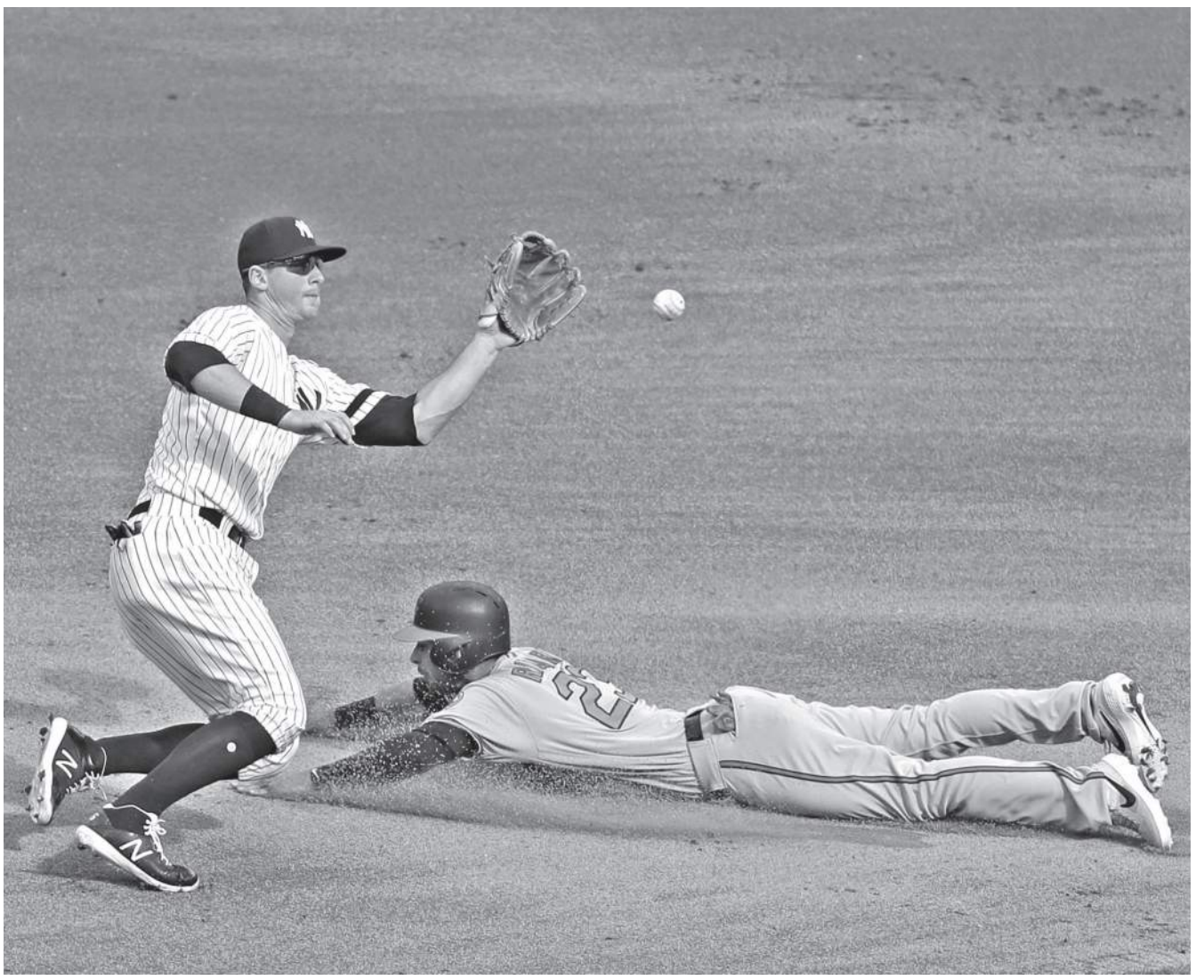
Both players won three MVP awards, earned spots on the league's list of 50 greatest players and were two-time Hall of Fame inductees, first as individuals and then with the Dream Team that captured the gold medal in Barcelona.

Bird went on to serve as both coach and president of the Indiana Pacers and is the only person in NBA history to be voted MVP, Coach of the Year and Executive of the Year.

Johnson also held both roles with the Lakers, though not with the same level of success. He served a short stint as coach (1993-94) and recently stepped down as team president after two seasons. His larger achievements since his playing days have come in the business world as CEO of Magic Johnson Enterprises.

Bill Russell was the first Lifetime Achievement winner in 2017 and Oscar Robertson was honored last year.

Torres' 3 HR power Yankees past Orioles



AP

Baltimore Orioles' Joey Rickard, right, slides past New York Yankees' DJ LeMahieu to steal second base during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, May 15, 2019, in New York. The Yankees won, 5-3.

NEW YORK (AP)—Gleyber Day turned into something of a nightmare for the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

Gleyber Torres hit three home runs during a doubleheader sweep, including a solo shot in the nightcap, and Domingo Germán became the majors' first eight-game winner in the New York Yankees' 3-1 victory over Baltimore.

Playing a twinbill after rainouts Monday and Tuesday, Torres hit two of New York's four homers during a 5-3 win in the opener. The 2018 All-Star has eight homers this season, and six have come against the Orioles.

"We got two days in a row off," Torres said. "I think everyone was rested."

The Yankees announced during the second game that third baseman Miguel Andújar, last year's runner-up for AL Rookie of the Year, will have season-ending surgery to repair a small labrum tear in his right shoulder Monday.

"Hurt for him a little bit," manager Aaron Boone said. "But know this is also just the beginning of the road back."

New York has won 20 of 27 games to move a season-high 10 games over .500 at 26-16 despite currently having 13 players on the injured list.

Aroldis Chapman closed out both games, giving him 11 saves in 12 chances. Zack Britton also pitched a scoreless inning in each game.

Rangers 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Ronald Guzman and Willie Calhoun each hit a two-run homer, and the Texas Rangers cruised to a 6-1 victory over the Royals.

Shin-Soo Choo added a solo shot in the ninth inning and Nomar Mazara matched a career high with four hits as the Rangers snapped a five-game skid. They have won six of their last eight against Kansas City, including an 11-5 loss in the series opener Tuesday.

Astros 5, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Justin Verlander allowed two hits in seven impressive innings against his former team, and the Houston Astros beat the Tigers for their eighth straight win.

Verlander (7-1) struck out nine in his second start at Comerica Park since his 2017 trade from Detroit to Houston. JaCoby Jones homered off him in the third for the Tigers' only run.

Alex Bregman hit his 14th homer of the season, a solo shot off Gregory Soto (0-2) to open the scoring.

Giants 4, Blue Jays 3

In San Francisco, Edwin Jackson became the first player in major league history to play for 14 teams when he made his Toronto Blue Jays debut and pitched five innings.

The 35-year-old right-hander allowed three runs—two earned—and six hits in five innings. He struck out two, walked one, hit a batter and left after 77 pitches with the score 3-3.

Brandon Crawford hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth off Ryan Tepera (0-2).

Twins 8, Angels 7

In Minneapolis, reliever Mike Morin hit former teammate Mike Trout with a bases-loaded pitch that forced in a run in the ninth inning before retiring Shohei Ohtani to end the game on a groundout and preserve Minnesota's win over Los Angeles.

Jonathan Lucroy had an RBI double and David Fletcher drove in a run with a single against Trevor Hildenberger in the three-run ninth, before the Twins turned to Morin for the final two outs and his first save this season.

Nationals 5, Mets 1

In Washington, Patrick Corbin struck out 11 in eight strong innings and Victor Robles homered in the Nationals' win over New York.

Anthony Rendon had three hits for Washington (17-25), which had lost seven of 10. He had two doubles and a single, scored twice and drove in a run.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 1

In Phoenix, Zack Greinke pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning before exiting with abdominal tightness and Arizona routed Chris Archer and Pittsburgh.

Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said Greinke would get an MRI on Friday.

Greinke (6-1) allowed four hits in 7 2/3 innings, then walked off the mound with a trainer with a 2-2 count on the Pirates' Cole Tucker. Greinke struck out five, walked none.

Reds 6, Cubs 5, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Eugenio Suarez hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth inning, and slumping Yasiel Puig singled with the bases loaded in the 10th, rallying the Reds to a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

The Cubs' stingy bullpen let a solid start by Yu Darvish go to waste. Darvish fanned 11 batters, and Addison Russell hit a two-run homer—his first since returning from a 40-game suspension for domestic violence—to help the Cubs to a 5-3 lead.

Rays 1, Marlins 0

In Miami, seven pitchers combined on a seven-hitter for Tampa Bay, and the Rays shut out the Miami Marlins for the second straight game.

The Marlins (10-31) lost their seventh consecutive game and are on pace for 122 losses.

Tampa Bay's run scored in the second inning when catcher Anthony Bemboom, called up from the minors last week, doubled for his first major league hit and RBI.

Braves 4, Cardinals 0

In Atlanta, Austin Riley made quite a splash in his big league debut, homering off Michael Wacha to lead the Braves to a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Another top prospect for the Baby Braves, he was called up from Triple-A Gwinnett before the game after Ender Inciarte went on the 10-day injured list with a sore back.

Brewers 5, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Gio Gonzalez continued to make the most of his second stint in Milwaukee, allowing one run while pitching into the sixth inning as the Milwaukee Brewers beat Philadelphia.

Gonzalez (2-0) was hardly dazzling in his fourth start this season, but the veteran lefty did enough to again reward the Brewers' faith in bringing him back.

Red Sox 6, Rockies 5, 10 innings

In Boston, J.D. Martinez homered in his third straight game, rookie Michael Chavis singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and the Red Sox recovered after blowing a five-run lead to beat Colorado.

Martinez hit a two-run shot and Eduardo Rodriguez struck out 10 over six innings for the Red Sox, who won for the 12th time in 15 games. They split the two-game set to remain unbeaten (13-0-4) in their last 17 interleague series at Fenway Park.

Spieth chasing history at Bethpage

FARMINGDALE, N.Y.—Winning the PGA Championship would be life-changing for most of the players at Bethpage Black this week.

But only one guy has the chance to grab golf immortality.

Jordan Spieth would become only the sixth player ever to complete the career grand slam if he can hoist the Wanamaker Trophy on Sunday night. At only 25 years old, his place in golf history would be secure, alongside Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen.

But Spieth, who failed in his first two bids to win the final leg of the career slam, isn't putting any pressure on himself to join that club this week.

"That would be a dream come true for me," Spieth said. "But I also recognize that if I continue to stay healthy and play well, I'll have, I don't know, 30 chances at it. One of them is bound to go my way, right?"

More chances is a good thing, because few believe this one will go Spieth's way.

Nearly two years have passed since his last win at the 2017 British Open. Since then, Spieth has fallen from No. 2 in the world to 39th and he hasn't had a top 20 finish since September.

It's an alarming drop-off for Spieth, who had won 10 events from 2015-17 before falling into a self-admitted slump.

Spieth said it hasn't been easy dealing with his poor play.

These days, most interviews are filled with questions about what's wrong with his game and why it isn't at the level that helped him win two majors in 2015 and finish in the Top 5 in the other two.

"I don't want to use the word 'negativity,'" Spieth said. "But the questioning and the wording that's used to describe me by media or whatever over the past year has only come up because of the amount of success that I've had."

Spieth admitted that he's grown frustrated, at times, with the way he's played. But he also believes he's becoming more driven to fix it.

"Knowing my capabilities and then what I've been doing … sometimes, momentarily, that can [become] frustration," Spieth said. "But it certainly leads to a drive, a will to want to correct and get back to where I'm contending."

He says he's fixed the technical swing issue that undermined his game. He says his slump is over and that he's close to a breakthrough. And there's some evidence to support that.

He's made eight of the last nine cuts and ranks 18th on the PGA Tour in birdie average. He played three solid rounds at the Masters, and worked himself into contention at last week's Byron Nelson Classic.

But there are also some red flags. Spieth has been prone to big mistakes, with at least two double-bogeys or worse in each of his last 10 tournaments. And he's had a tough time scoring when it matters: In 16 weekend rounds this year, Spieth has broken 70 only three times.

Injured Sharapova withdraws from French Open

FRANCE (AP)—Two-time French Open champion Maria Sharapova pulled out of the year's second Grand Slam tournament on Tuesday because of her surgically repaired right shoulder.

Sharapova announced her withdrawal on Instagram.

"Sometimes the right decisions aren't always the easiest ones," she wrote.

She said she has returned to practice and is "slowly building the strength back" in her shoulder.

The former No. 1 and owner of five major titles hasn't competed anywhere since late January, when she withdrew from a tournament in Russia after winning her opening match there. In February, she said she had a "small procedure" on her shoulder, which was painful since last year because of a fraying tendon and small labrum tear.

During a recent interview at the Italian Open, International Tennis Hall of Fame member Nick Bollettieri said Sharapova is at his academy "right now, training."

Asked whether Sharapova is contemplating retirement, the coach responded: "Not yet. I think she's going to give it one more shot."

Play begins at the French Open on May 26. The 32-year-old Sharapova won the title at Roland Garros in 2012 to complete a career Grand Slam and collected the trophy at the clay-court major again in 2014.

Since then, the Russian has been only an occasional participant in the sport's four most prestigious events: This French Open will mark the eighth time in a span of 20 majors that she has been absent.

Sharapova was sidelined for 15 months by a doping suspension after failing a drug test at the Australian Open in January 2016, then returned to the tour in April 2017 with a ranking too low to get into Grand Slam events. The French Open denied her a wild-card invitation, then she planned to try to qualify for Wimbledon before pulling out because of an injured left leg.

Her right shoulder has been an issue over the years.

She cut her 2018 season short in September because of problems with it.

Sharapova originally had surgery on the shoulder in 2008 and was off the tour for about 10 months. She skipped the 2013 U.S. Open because of that shoulder, too.

Meanwhile, play at the Italian Open has been wiped out by rain, meaning Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic will have to wait until Thursday to play their opening matches at the clay-court tournament.

Federer was slated to meet Joao Sousa on Wednesday, eight-time Rome champion Nadal was scheduled to play Jeremy Chardy and Djokovic was up against Denis Shapovalov.

Also, top-ranked Naomi Osaka was to play Dominika Cibulkova.

But consistent rain at the Foro Italico wiped out the entire day and evening sessions.

Better weather is forecast for Thursday and Friday.

AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova returns to Australia's Ashleigh Barty during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

KANOA

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debut on May 20. Then on May 6, all four teams will see action at the Koblerville pitch with Paire taking on Matansa at 4pm and Kanoa battling Shirley's at 6pm. For the last pair of matches in the round-robin prelims, Kanoa will duel Kanoa on June 2 at 4pm, while Matansa will challenge Shirley's at 6pm.

For the playoff round, which will start on June 9, the No. 1 seed team will face the No. 4 finisher in the 6pm game for the second finals ticket, while the No. 2 and 3 squads will square off for the first finals berth at 4pm. Winners in the pair of semis tiffs will then collide in a one-game finals on June 16 at 6pm, while a consolation match will be played at 4pm.

AGAPE

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onship, as it had many qualifiers in various events and made it to the Top 5.

Santos ruled the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m runs. Agape's Kobe Yang also raced in the 400m run and was ranked third, while Jonathan Xiong and Peter Wang finished second and third in the 800m run and three more Agape runners competed in the finals. Xiong and Wang made it to the podium, too of the 1,500m race, while Ray Qi and Simon Shan finished at No. 5 and 6, respectively. Xiong was also the runner-up in the 3,000m and was followed by Qi, while four other Agape runners made it to the Top 8. In the 100m run, Yang was second to Saipan Southern High School's Traven Quitugua, while Wang came in at eighth place

In the long jump, Agape swept the Top 3 (Xiong, Yang, and Arthur Liang) and won four of the Top 5 spots with Wang in fifth place.

Tinian topped the shot put (Leorich Epity) and javelin (Devin Cing), but Agape had more qualifiers that got points in other field events to edge the Stallions for the overall championship. The victories of Kagman High School's Francisco Kumuch in the discus throw and high jump helped Agape nip Tinian.

Agape also defeated Tinian in the 4x100m and 4x400m relay runs.

Meanwhile, the Quitugualed Saipan Southern placed third overall after bagging 59 points, while Saipan International School was ranked fourth with its 43 markers, and Marianas High School (39) finished fifth.

In the girls U18 division, Jaime Pangelinan, Leani Acosta, Jerlyn Castillo, and Ruschelle Valino handed MHS the overall crown. The quartet contributed more than half to the Lady Dolphins' 173 points, as they earned Top 3 finishes in both the running and field events.

Agape was the runner-up in the division with its 72 points, followed by SIS (67), Saipan Southern (44), and Tinian (36).

GCA

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total points.

"We kept a positive mindset and that helped us a lot. Our coaches told us to always think of the good things that can happen if we stay positive," said Lamar, as they made it to the finals despite a dismal 2-4 record in the regular season and after pulling off an upset over Mt. Carmel School.

"We had [previously] lost to Mount Carmel and Agape, and it was through our constant practices and teamwork that we were able to win against these tough teams," said Katriel Saures, who chipped 5 markers in the title victory.

Saures and Lamar made one field goal apiece in the third quarter, turning an 11-7 lead to a 15-7 cushion.

The Lady Torchbearers attempted to pull together one last push to foil GCA's upset bid, as Mei Ou and Jenny Lin combined for 4 points. However, their efforts to bring Agape back into contention ultimately fell short and GCA was awarded the championship trophy in its first appearance in the middle school competition since 2014.

Lamar, besides hoisting the championship trophy, received the Finals MVP award.

"I am so happy and excited to have been able to contribute to the win," Lamar said. "I am thankful to all my teammates for their contributions, which were no less important than mine."

The shooting guard scored 4 points in the first half, while Azriel Fatialofa tallied 3 markers, as they outgunned Although Lin and Ou and lifted GCA to a 4-point lead at the break. The Lady Eagles then did a great job at neutralizing Agape's gunners and controlling the boards to keep their lead in the second half and complete the upset.

Coach Genesis Prieto, after their title conquest, has all praises to his players, acknowledging the big improvement the Lady Eagles have shown since Day 1 of their practice.

"The girls really worked hard, practiced hard, and really learned how to play basketball. We were encouraging them to play and it is nice to hear that they enjoy playing basketball. It was really a team effort," said Prieto, who drew help from Frank Dalusong in handling the champion squad.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Finals MVP Soleil Lamar of Grace Christian Academy is surrounded by a phalanx of Agape Christian School defenders, as she drives to the basket during their title game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

GCA 16—Lamar 8, Saures 5, Fatialofa 3.

Agape 11—Lin 6, Ou 5

Scoring by quarters: 4-1, 11-7, 15-7, 16-11

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

France leads 'Group of Death'; Germany favored

France and Germany are the highest-ranked teams in Groups A and B, respectively, making them the early favorites to advance to the Round of 16.

The hosts are No. 4 in the world and will have the home crowd behind them, as they try to duplicate the fete of the Les Bleus in Russia last year and live up to high expectations in the pool that pundits, arguably, called as "Group of Death."

A downside for being the hosts is the Les Bleues have never played a qualifying match since 2014. They competed in the Women's UEFA Women's Euro 2017, though, and made it to the quarterfinals, but lost to England.

France, which will be making its fourth World Cup appearance, is coached by former player and 2003 World Cup participant Corinne Diacre—the first female to coach a men's pro team in their country. Diacre will banking on team captain Amandine Henry.

Though Norway (No. 12) is ranked higher than Nigeria (No. 38), the latter is picked to challenge France for the top spot in Group A. The Super Falcons' ninth title win in the Women's Africa Cup of Nations is enough proof that Nigeria is a threat to the hosts. Add the explosive Asisat Oshoala—voted the best player of the nation for three years and winner of the golden boot award in the FIFA-U20 World Cup—to the equation and you can place your bet on this African team.

Norway has the most World Cup appearances in Group A—making it in all eight editions of the event. It is also the only team in the group that has won the Cup (1995). The Gresshoppene defeated Euro champs, the Netherlands, in a qualifying match to earn a trip to France. Norway, however, was winless in the Women's Euro 2017.

No. 14 ranked South Korea is the proverbial dark horse in Group A after a lackluster performance in tournaments leading to the World Cup. The Taegeuk Nangja finished only fifth in the 2018 AFC Women's Asian Cup and took the last World Cup berth allotted for Asia when they defeated the Philippines, 5-0. South Korea's powerful weapon in France would be its defense, as it did not concede a single goal in all its matches in the Asian Cup.

Germany is the reigning Olympic champion (2016) and that makes the Die Nationalelf the top pick in Group A. The world's No. 2 rank team's 8-for-8 World Cup appearances, three finals stint, and two titles add to Germany's impressive record.

However, China, Spain, and South Africa just need to look at Germany's loss to Iceland in the qualifier and struggle in the 2018 SheBelieves Cup and Euro 2017 as motivations that the Die Nationalelf are very much beatable.

No. 13 Spain is the other team favored to make it past the group stage based on its performance in the qualifiers—winning all its eight matches and scoring 25 goals, while giving up only two.

No. 16 China, runner-up to the United States in 1999, will be competing in the World Cup for the seventh time. The Steel Roses were third in last year's Asian Cup and second in the Asian Game, making the team hungrier for a better finish in France.

No. 49 South Africa has nothing to lose and everything to gain in France, as it will be playing in the World Cup for the first time. The Banyana Banyana made it to the finals of the Africa Cup and only lost to Nigeria after a shootout (3-4).

AMANDINE HENRY

DZSENIFER MAROZSAN

FIFA TM
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
FRANCE 2019

GROUP A SCHEDULE

France	VS	S. Korea	(June 8, 5AM)		
Norway	VS	Nigeria	(June 9, 5AM)		
Nigeria	VS	S. Korea	(June 12, 11PM)		
France	VS	Norway	(June 13, 5AM)		
Nigeria	VS	France	(June 18, 5AM)		
S. Korea	VS	Norway	(June 18, 5AM)		

GROUP B SCHEDULE

Germany	VS	China	(June 8, 11PM)		
Spain	VS	S. Africa	(June 9, 2AM)		
Germany	VS	Spain	(June 13, 2AM)		
China	VS	S. Africa	(June 14, 5AM)		
China	VS	Spain	(June 18, 2AM)		
S. Africa	VS	Germany	(June 18, 2AM)		

Source: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Bucks finish with a flourish to top Raptors

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Sports

Torres' 3 HR power Yankees past Orioles

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GCA upsets Agape in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy stunned top-ranked Agape Christian Academy, 16-11, in the girls title game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles entered the finals as underdogs after losing twice to the Lady Torchbearers in the regular season, while the latter were undefeated heading into the playoffs.

Then in their third meeting, GCA caught Agape off guard, limiting the No. 1 seed team to one point in the first quarter to control the game. The Lady Eagles' defense then held the Lady Torchbearers scoreless in the third period to boost their title bid.

On offense, Soleil Lamar led GCA, as she scored half of their

See GCA on Page 30

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy players and coaches pose with their championship trophy after pulling off an upset over Agape Christian School, 16-11, during their title game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Agape nips Tinian to win boys U18 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School nosed out Tinian Junior Senior High School in the close battle for the overall title in the boys U18 division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

The Torchbearers got 127 points, just 2 markers ahead of the formidable Tinian crew led by CNMI national team member Tyler Santos. The runner gave Tinian several first place finishes in several races over the weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex, but Agape managed to steal the overall champi-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Agape Christian School student, right, tries to anchor his team to a first place finish in the 4x100m relay event during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Kanoa draws first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club prevailed in the opening game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs. 11 League after slipping past Matansa Football Club, 4-3, last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Irish Pagarao scored all four goals for Kanoa with her shot in the 49th minute proved to be the marginal, as she won a "shootout" with Janna Casarino.

The Matansa striker caught Kanoa's defense off guard with an early goal in the ninth minute, while Pagarao quickly countered, tying the count a minute later. The Pagarao-Casarino exchange continued, as the latter regained the lead for Matansa in the 12th minute, while the former's second goal in the 14th forced the second deadlock of the game.

Pagarao then became the first player to record a hat trick in the season, as she found the back of the net anew in the 28th minute to put Kanoa in the lead. Ten minutes later, Casarino duplicated Pagarao's fete and the opposing teams were back to square one after the first half.

In the second half, Pagarao had the final say in the see-saw battle and Kanoa tightened up its defense the rest of the way to prevent Casarino from scoring and win the first game of the season.

Besides Kanoa and Matansa, two other teams are competing in the Dove-sponsored league with Shirley's Football Club and Paire Football Club playing in their season

See KANOA on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club, left, and Matansa Football Club players fight for posseison during the opening game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's 11 vs 11 League last Monday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.